

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE BRITISH GUARD FROM ANPING.

The statement telegraphed by our Anping correspondent that Admiral BULLER has effected the withdrawal of the British forces of all foreigners from that port will naturally occasion much surprise. The British themselves are in a state of utter confusion, as well they may be, in the absence of any explanation of the course adopted. How much longer it may be before the Japanese arrive no one knows; they have not arrived yet and to the Settlement without a guard single day, or even for a single day, would be to invite the Black to loot what property they could conveniently carry away and destroy the rest. That the danger is fully recognised by the fact that the foreigners have been ordered to leave with the guard, it being for them to remain. If the foreigners obey it will only be their property that will be at stake; if any of them elect to remain it will be at the risk of their lives. The course adopted by the Admiral seems on the face of it so extraordinary that we cannot but think there must be some special grounds for it and that the interests of the foreign residents will not be allowed to suffer in the long run. If their property is destroyed presumably an indemnity will be enforced, though the case is so complicated that it is rather difficult to say who should be made to pay. Primarily the Chinese Government is responsible for the state of disorder prevailing in the Formosa. LIU YUNG-FU, the Black flag leader, is a General in the Chinese army and he has been actively supporting

THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN RUSSIA, FRANCE, AND GERMANY.

The sudden and unnatural alliance between Russia, France, and Germany, formed to put a check upon Japanese progress, very soon dissolved. It was indeed rather a temporary joint action than an agreement and the moment the object was attained the concert fell to pieces. The unanimity scarcely lasted through the negotiations; no sooner had the Germans offered to support Russia than they began to regret the action. The Russians were in no wise conciliated by the assistance rendered; the French were simply irritated; and the action of the French Navy at Kiel in refusing to dine with the German officers sufficiently proves how deep seated is the hatred of Germany still entertained in the breasts of Frenchmen. The Germans were anxious to make a bid for Russian good will; they have now the satisfaction of feeling that they were made a cat's-paw of to pull chestnuts out of the fire for the Great Bear, and they cannot console themselves by believing either that the French are more placably disposed towards them, or that they have in any degree weakened the understanding between Russia and France. The honour just conferred upon President FAURE by His Majesty the Czar is evidence of the fact that the agreement between the Republic and the Muscovite Empire is more strongly welded than ever; while the flout administered to Germany during the festivities at Kiel by France seems to indicate very plainly that, secure in the possession of Russian friendship, the French are indifferent to the attitude of Germany. All this

natural strength. Korea remains to be a thorn in the side to her, but if her Government can succeed in getting several of the Powers to unite with her in establishing a joint control, like that of England and France in Egypt before the revolt of ARABI, she will get relieved of a large share of responsibility and danger.

Meantime Russia is still unsatisfied, and the Treaty Powers generally have no cause for congratulation. The new Japanese Treaty will do little to make up for the serious interruption to trade caused by the war, since nearly all the proposals likely to benefit trade were disallowed by LI HUNG-CHANG, and the mere husks remain. The Chinese Government, untaught by experience, are prepared to resume their old courses of chicanery, outrage, and bad faith, and the Foreign Ministers still seem unable to approach the Tsung-li Yamen save with bated breath. At one time it was rumoured that the British Minister had plucked up heart enough to demand the cession of Chusan, and later a report became current in Paris that China would cede the Pescadores to France; but there was, it would seem, no foundation for either statement. Considering that the Pescadores had already been ceded with Formosa to Japan, it appeared quite incredible, on the face of it, that the Chinese Government could undertake such a step, and the report was promptly denied. There was, however, nothing improbable in the statement about the cession of the Chusan group, inasmuch as Great Britain has already twice held these islands, and has a treaty with China in which that country engages not to part with them to any other Power. If at any time Chusan is to

lesson will no doubt have to be read to them very sharply before these outrages are abandoned, because owing to the long continued immunity from retribution enjoyed by the mandarins have formed a belief that the Western Powers are afraid of China. To the everlasting shame of the Foreign Ministers, their policy during the past few years has given only too much colour to that supposition, and even now the British and American Ministers have not, apparently, ventured to insist upon proper redress for the gross injuries suffered by the British and American missionaries. Possibly the advent of Lord SALISBURY to the Foreign Office may bring about a change in the abject attitude of Sir NICHOLAS O'CONNOR at Peking, though we cannot be too sanguine on this point, for Lord SALISBURY was at the Foreign Office when the last outburst of anti-foreign feeling in Mid-China took place, and nothing was done in the matter. At the Foreign Office, as at the Colonial Office, the permanent officials pull the strings, and it is only in matters likely to be brought up in Parliament and discussed on party lines that the Secretary of State will take the trouble to form an independent opinion. The Minister at Peking, too, still remains somewhat of a dark horse. It must be confessed however, that there seems little chance of the author of the Burmah Convention ever doing anything but truckle to the mandarins. Sir THOMAS WADSWORTH spent himself in arguing with the Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen, Sir JOHN WALSHAM gave way entirely, and pigeon-holed all complaints; but Sir NICHOLAS O'CONNOR seems to have surpassed both in weakness and complacency. It is most unfortunate for British interests that they are not represented at Peking by a strong man, who knows what he wants and will not be put off by lies and vague promises.

If France wishes to acquire a grip on China, she has now a splendid opportunity. By the infamous outrages on the missions in Szechuen she has a strong claim for substantial reparation, to say nothing of other little bills for organised piracies by Chinese troops in Tonkin, and the brutal murder of a French missionary in Korea by Chinese troops. There is nothing that France may not have if she only chooses to insist upon it. Ten thousand French troops would suffice for the conquest of Yunnan or Kwangsi and Hainan. China is utterly helpless; her troops are not worth counting; her fleet is a vanished quantity; and she might be split up into a dozen kingdoms in three months by any great military Power. Now is the time, if the French Government have determined to extend their empire in the Far East, to lop off branches from the effete Chinese trunk. Well might CHANG CHIH-TUNG, as reported, wring his hands when he heard of the outrages in Szechuen. He knows how utterly defenceless China is, and he is well aware of French and Russian ambitions. No more fatuous act could possibly have been perpetrated than the senseless destruction of these missions. If only the mandarins had confined the outrages to British, American, and Scandinavian missions, all might have been well; at the worst there would only have been a strictly limited pecuniary indemnity to be paid, and the organisers of the pastime of missionary baiting would have been free to prepare new projects of the same kind in other districts. But to put their head in the tiger's mouth by destroying French missions and add to the already great provocation suffered by that irritable Power, was surely the acme of folly! France has still the recollection of the humiliation suffered by her in the abortive war of 1884-5 to wipe

out, and she will not be slow to grasp the chance afforded her. It is true that she has a good deal on her hands; the campaign in Madagascar will hardly prove a mere triumphal march past; but she has long been spoiling for a fight, and a brush with her old enemy China would not be unwelcome to either her army or navy. Unless, therefore, the Chinese Government are prepared to lick the dust and promptly concede all demands made by M. GERARD it is quite conceivable that they may have to pay more heavily for the Szechuen outrages than they have had to for their bad faith in Korea.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE VICEROY OF SZECHUEN.

That the Viceroy of Szechuen, LIU PING-CHANG, is responsible for the outrages that have occurred in his province there can be little doubt, but it is difficult to believe that he can have furnished such an utterly idiotic statement of the origin of the disturbances as is alleged by the *Peking and Tientsin Times*. According to our contemporary, LIU has sent to Tientsin a despatch reporting that the affair commenced by a foreigner who had got into a crowd using his stick to save himself from being hustled; the crowd got angry, whereupon the foreigner took to flight, reached his house, and then fired, killing two persons. Then the crowd gutted and burnt the building. "Inside," the report goes on to state, "the people found two Chinese children, kept in a cage of some kind. They were in a state of suspended animation. These children were taken to the yamen and skilful Chinese doctors were there called in, who, on examining them, found some kind of black drug introduced into their nostrils, which was the cause of their insensibility. By the use of remedies the doctors restored them to consciousness, when the children related how they had been kidnapped by the foreigner, who administered the drug, and they knew no more. Upon this dreadful crime being brought to light, by an open examination in a Chinese court of law, the people were fired with indignation and the disturbances were spreading in all directions." This is just the sort of tale that the literati, men like the notorious CHOU HAN, are constantly putting forth to inflame the passions of the people, but that a responsible officer of the Empire should invent or repeat anything of the kind in a formal despatch seems altogether incredible, for it cannot be supposed that he believed it himself or that he could expect it to be believed by the Peking Government. Yet the *Peking and Tientsin Times* says "it is certain that such an idiot's lie is the Viceroy LIU's formal statement of the case received in the Viceregal yamen at Tientsin." If that be so it must be taken as proof of his complicity and the duty of the Foreign Ministers at Peking to insist upon the condign punishment of LIU would be clear. Mere removal from office or degradation in rank would be a quite inadequate penalty for the offence. Indeed, LIU's removal from the Viceroyalty had already been ordered before the riots broke out and for reasons unconnected with his treatment of foreigners, and it is said that, thinking nothing worse could happen to him, he has taken advantage of his brief remaining span of office to wreak his hatred on the missionary establishments in the province. If the Foreign Governments do their duty, LIU will be brought to formal trial before a mixed tribunal, as was the case with PHERA YOR, the Siamese mandarin who was accused of treachery to a French party in the troubles on the Annam frontier a couple

of years ago. Let LIU be tried in the same way, before a tribunal in which representatives of China, Great Britain, France, and the United States sit as judges. If guilt cannot be brought home to him, well and good; but if it be shown that he instigated the riots, or without having actually instigated them took no steps to prevent them or to afford protection to the foreigners, let sentence be passed upon him adequate to his offence. In the case of PHERA YOR, after sentence was passed the question arose whether the imprisonment should take place in French or Siamese territory. This is a point which, in the case of LIU and any of his compeers who may be joined with him in the trial, should be decided by the convention constituting the Court, and, as no confidence could be entertained in the Chinese Government to see the sentence duly carried out, it would be better to arrange that it should be carried out abroad. If the Viceroys and other high officials of the Chinese Empire saw that by instigating or allowing outrages upon foreigners they rendered themselves liable to ten or twenty years' penal servitude in a foreign gaol, say at Hongkong or Saigon, there would be no more riots like those of Chengtu. There has been too much trifling in the past; the time for decided action has now arrived. It is no use punishing a few coolies; it is the leaders and instigators of the outrages that must be got at, but that will never be done as long as the punishment of the offenders is left entirely in the hands of the Chinese Government. France has already demanded that LIU shall be tried and that a French representative shall take part in the trial. The other Powers interested should join in that demand.

ADDITIONAL TAXATION ON OPIUM.

China is now casting about for schemes to raise the necessary funds to defray the charges of the Japanese indemnity. The Customs revenue has always been regarded as a certain income by the Peking Government, but the bulk of that revenue will now be required to pay the interest on the foreign loans that are to be contracted. The deficiency must be made up by some means and the high officials throughout the Empire have been asked to report by memorials any schemes they can devise to raise funds and also any expenses which in their opinion could be cut down. What readier means could be found of raising additional revenue than imposing extra taxation on foreign goods, especially opium? Such seems to be the idea that has presented itself to the mind of the Shanghai Taotai, who has been in communication with the Opium Guild on the subject. According to the *China Gazette*, his proposition to the guild is "to levy a tax of Tls. 20 upon every case of imported opium towards the special fund which the Central Government has directed the provinces to send up to Peking. The Opium Guild had already consented to pay a voluntary tax of Tls. 2 per chest, and the Taotai proposed that the new imposition should be also considered in the light of a voluntary and patriotic offering. But the members of the guild do not see it that way and we do not think the British opium merchants will allow the illegal imposition to be carried out without protest." Some years ago the late Viceroy of Canton, LI HAN-CHANG, thought he could set the Opium Convention at defiance and levy what duties he pleased on the drug, but he was very soon undeceived. By the Additional Article to the Chefoo Convention Her Majesty's Government agreed that lekin not exceeding

Tls. 80 per chest shall be levied on opium and shall be payable, with the Tls. 30 import duty, before the opium leaves the bonded warehouse; that on payment of such lekin a certificate shall be issued exempting the opium to which it applies from the imposition of any further tax or duty whilst in transport in the interior; that on arrival at the place of consumption the opium shall not be subjected to any tax in excess of that levied on native opium; and that the Government of Great Britain shall have the right to terminate the agreement at any time should the transit certificate be found not to confer on the opium complete exemption from all taxation whatsoever whilst being carried from the port of entry to the place of consumption in the interior. The opium lekin collected last year amounted to no less than Tls. 5,050,000, or nearly one-fourth of the total Customs revenue. In the absence of the agreement above referred to a sum possibly much larger than this would have been levied at the lekin stations throughout the Empire, but only a small proportion of it would have been accounted for to the Imperial Government. The latter is understood to have become awake to the wastefulness of the lekin collectorate, which lines the pockets of the officials connected with it but produces a minimum of revenue for public purposes. The loss of the five million taels now collected as opium lekin by the Foreign Customs would be severely felt by the Imperial Government, especially at the present juncture, and a threat held out by the British Government to withdraw from the agreement would no doubt be sufficient to stop the scheme of the Shanghai Taotai and any others of the same description. But the incident is suggestive of the efforts that will inevitably be made to make the trade in foreign goods pay a large share of the indemnity, and unfortunately it is only opium that is protected by a treaty agreement fixing the maximum amount of lekin that may be levied upon it. Other goods are only protected, according to the official reading of the treaties, while under transit pass, and may be taxed to any extent on arrival at their destination, and in the South even the protection of the transit pass is denied, notwithstanding the provisions of the treaty. The Peking Government, having seen the advantage of an honest collection, as in the case of the opium lekin, would, it is believed, be glad to see a general reform in the matter of internal taxation, but it is not at present strong enough, even if it really has the desire attributed to it, to sweep away the army of harpies who batten on the squeezes levied on trade. If it wants more money from the provinces, therefore, the local officials will simply apply the squeeze system a little harder. Opium is expressly protected, but other goods are almost certain to suffer.

LOTTERIES AT SHANGHAI AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT.

An interesting judgment was given in the United States Consular Court at Shanghai the other day which has an important bearing on the constitution of the Model Settlement. Some time ago a lottery was established, called the Gold Bond Investment Company, by certain citizens of the United States. This was regarded as a public scandal and finally the Municipal Council took action in the Consular Court for its suppression. The nature of the case is explained in the following paragraphs of Mr. JERNIGAN's judgment:—"The plaintiffs allege that the defendants are conducting a lot-

tery within the Foreign Settlement of Shanghai to the detriment of good morals and to the damage and common nuisance of the public, and ask that the defendants be restrained. The defendants answer that they do not wish, nor has it ever been their intention, to engage in or conduct any business contrary to the moral sentiment of the foreign population of Shanghai, but as lottery tickets were being sold publicly on the Foreign Settlement they were not aware that they were violating the Regulations of the Settlement when they offered the tickets of the Gold Bond Investment Company for sale. The plaintiffs and defendants agree that this case shall be submitted to the Court, upon the issue thus raised, for decision, the facts leaving no doubt that the defendants are conducting a lottery on the Foreign Settlement." The Judge arrived at the conclusion that, although Congress had no power to legislate against lotteries, each state composing the Union having the sole power to allow or prohibit lotteries within its boundaries, yet a lottery might, according to the common law, be dealt with as a nuisance if it were shown to be such. It was held that the lottery in question was a nuisance, and therefore to be suppressed. But the Consul went on to refer to the constitution of the Settlements. In countries where government is reduced to a legal system, he said, the powers of local police rest on charters granted by the supreme legislative authority, but a community outside of any general system of laws may organize a government and adopt rules and regulations which would be valid on the ground of the right of self-preservation, an inherent right in people everywhere; and in this light the Municipal Ordinances of Shanghai may be regarded. The Foreign Settlement of Shanghai, not being subject to the laws of China, and the legal system of the respective foreign Powers represented at Shanghai being not only dissimilar *inter se*, but often insufficient to meet local needs, it is necessary for the local foreign residents interested in the preservation of peace and order and good morals to supply the deficiency. It would not seem logical, Mr. JERNIGAN held, for any foreign Power to assent to any business being conducted at Shanghai which, in the opinion of the foreign residents, was opposed to public morals and decency. He quoted a communication from the American Secretary of State bearing on this point, and went on to say:—"It is understood that the plaintiffs do not claim the prerogative to pass a by-law or regulation defining rights and wrongs, and, consequently, disclaim the power to enforce the one and prevent the other; but, however this may be, it does seem that when the Municipal Council of Shanghai comes into Court, as a plaintiff, and asks for the suppression of a business which, in the petition, is alleged to be detrimental to good morals and a common nuisance to the public, it should be able to adduce some evidence, by-law, or regulation, or even some resolution, at least indicative of an opinion of its own." Here the Consul seems to throw a duty on the Municipal Council beyond any which it has hitherto exercised or claimed to exercise. The case in question was conveniently dealt with as a common law nuisance, but if the defendant had been a subject of a state not recognising lotteries as a nuisance the judgment of the Court having cognisance of the case would necessarily have been different from that of the United States Consular Court. Take the sale of Manila lottery tickets, for instance, to which Mr. JERNIGAN alluded, though not expressly by name. The pro-

hibition of the selling of lottery tickets about the streets of Shanghai and at other places in the Settlement was, he said, a matter that commended itself to the careful consideration of the Municipal authorities, and "if the Municipal authorities have not the power to preserve the Settlement from the presence of the vendors of lottery tickets, then steps should be promptly taken to find the power that has and to have it exercised in the name of morality, decency, and legitimate business." But if Spain allows the Philippine Government to raise revenue by a lottery would that Power be likely to prohibit its subjects selling the tickets, either in Shanghai or elsewhere? And where else is the authority to suppress the sale to be derived from? The question of lotteries is in itself a small one, but it is illustrative of difficulties that arise from the multiplicity of jurisdictions in Shanghai and which are likely to increase as the place grows. The Model Settlement is fast becoming a great manufacturing centre and its population is rapidly increasing. The idea that its ultimate destiny is to be formed into a free city has sometimes been expressed, and more unlikely things have happened in history. With the growth of new and localised interests the present system of exterritoriality will become more and more unsuited to the requirements of the place. If there is to be any splitting up of China, Shanghai might perhaps with advantage be allowed to stand alone as a free city, with its autonomy and inviolability guaranteed by the Powers.

MR. EDE AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

The return of Mr. N. J. EDE to the colony will raise the diminished strength of the Sanitary Board, unless he should think it his duty to join his unofficial colleagues and tender his resignation, or, what is practically the same thing, decline to take up his appointment as a member, which was conferred upon him in his absence. Mr. EDE's former term of office expired a year ago, and he was reappointed by the Governor by a notification dated the 22nd May, 1894, together with the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and Dr. HARTIGAN, the appointments to take effect as from the 17th June, 1894. Whether Mr. EDE had intimated his willingness to accept reappointment we are not aware, but it is to be presumed that the Governor would not have reappointed him without some assurance on this point. Had Mr. EDE been in the colony at the time his unofficial colleagues resigned he would no doubt have acted in concert with them, but returning at the present stage the matter may present itself to him in a different light. The question that led to the resignation of the other unofficial members has now been submitted to the Secretary of State and Mr. EDE's resignation, if it should be tendered, would be too late to have any practical effect in strengthening the position taken up by his unofficial colleagues. The matter is now pending, and on the whole we think Mr. EDE would best consult the interests of the colony by retaining his appointment, at least until the decision of the Secretary of State is announced. We have on previous occasions referred to the value of Mr. EDE's services on the Sanitary Board. He has always taken the business of the Board seriously, has made a point of attending the meetings regularly, and has devoted to the various questions coming before him in his capacity as a member the same close and scrupulous attention that in commercial life has made his services so highly appreciated by the Company with which he is connected. Quiet, practical, and intelligent work, with a

total absence of sensationalism, has characterised Mr. Edz as a member of the Sanitary Board and it would be regrettable if his services should be lost to the community in that capacity. If the Secretary of State should uphold the action of the local Government and decide that the Sanitary Board should be deprived of all effective power then Mr. Edz would no doubt find his continued membership of that body inconsistent with his self-respect and the respect he owes to his fellow ratepayers, but in the meantime, while the decision is pending, and seeing that his resignation at the present juncture could have no effect on that decision either one way or the other, it would be well for the colony if Mr. Edz could see his way to retain his appointment, though his position as the solitary unofficial member might be in some respects unpleasant to himself.

OUR WASHING.

Singapore is at present suffering from an epidemic of cholera and in connection therewith one of the local papers raises the question of the conditions under which the laundry work of the colony is carried out. This is a subject in which Hongkong may well take a sympathetic interest, for the circumstances of the two colonies as regards their washing are almost identical. On paying his dhobie the other day, the *Free Press* informs us, a gentleman making enquiries as to the state of health in the neighbourhood of that functionary's quarters was rather horrified to find that there had been two deaths in the house. Further interrogation, however, brought out the fact that there was nothing choleraic about the cause of death. One case had been "very hot for eight days"—fever of some kind or another—and another was a case of *perampuan punya sakit*, which, from the subsequent remarks, appears to be the Malay term for a certain loathsome contagious disease, and our Singapore contemporary lectures the opponents of the Contagious Diseases Acts for their folly. We have no exception to take to the remarks made on that point, but are not the animadversions on the Exeter Hall party equally applicable to a community which will not take the slightest trouble to see that its washing is done under reasonable sanitary conditions? "As it is quite possible," says the *Free Press*, "this patient was lying about on and perhaps wearing customers' clothes sent to the wash, even the most dolt-skulled partisans of Exeter Hall may well turn pale when they think what risks to themselves, their wives, and families, may any day come home with the washing. . . . Cholera is a sportive trifle compared with this sort of thing. At any rate it is not passed on to curse generations of an innocent posterity." Medical inspection under the Contagious Diseases Acts would be one way of meeting such a danger; another, equally effective and simpler in its application, would be to see that the public laundries are properly conducted. And how do we stand in Hongkong in relation to this matter? Let the Sanitary Superintendent answer. In his last annual report Mr. McCALLUM says:—"Only three of the ten public laundries have been let during the year, although the rental is as low as \$10 a month. That there is a strong artificial opposition to the using of these buildings by the public washermen is to me clear enough, but beyond the natural obstinacy of Chinese workmen I know of no reason for the opposition. It is quite true that these public washermen receive the tacit support of many of their employers in their obstinate opposition. It is difficult to understand why the vast majority of our

leading residents of all nationalities should prefer to have their linen washed in an evil smelling puddle on the hillside and dressed in the living room of their washermen's servants, who live upon and sleep amongst their clients' linen, rather than in the public laundries. However, so long as such a very peculiar preference exists it is very doubtful if much can be done to improve this branch of the sanitation of the colony."

TYPHOON INSURANCE.

A new departure in insurance business is being taken by the Commercial Union Assurance Co., Limited, which advertises that it is now prepared to accept risks against typhoon damage. After the 1874 typhoon, when the colony was almost wrecked, there was a good deal of talk about the desirability of facilities for typhoon insurance, but none of the Companies doing business in the colony at that time were prepared to enter on this line, and the idea of forming a local company for the purpose was not carried into effect. As time went on and there was no repetition of the disaster on a large scale the community seemed to become oblivious to the danger, but the typhoon of last year once more brought it home to us. The damage to private property on that occasion has been estimated at \$100,000, which was a trifle as compared with that wrought by the 1874 typhoon, but it was sufficiently serious for those who had to bear the loss. The new departure of the Commercial Union Co. will therefore be hailed with satisfaction by property owners and mortgagees, who have hitherto had no opportunity of protecting themselves against typhoon damages. Few landlords neglect to insure their property against fire and no one would think of advancing money on mortgage without making insurance against fire one of the conditions. But the risk of damage from typhoons is in Hongkong scarcely less than that of damage by fire. A house is as liable to be destroyed by the one as the other, and although typhoons are less frequent than fires when they do occur the damage is more likely to be widespread. One bad typhoon will do as much damage as the fires of many years, and now that insurance against typhoons is possible landlords and mortgagees will no doubt be glad to shift the risk from their own shoulders to those of the Company that has struck out on this new line.

GOLD IN PAHANU.

The discovery of gold on the Passoh property of the Straits Development Company has led to a boom in the shares of that concern on the London market. A reef has been found yielding, it is said, 2½ oz. to the ton, and the formation is said to be similar to that of the celebrated Mount Morgan. We have had similar sensational statements in the earlier history of Raub and Punjom, and we suspect that Passoh when worked will yield results not very dissimilar to those two properties. Speaking at the annual meeting of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, held at Brisbane on the 23rd May, the Chairman said:—"Development has proved the lodes on the Company's property to be of a permanent character, and workable at a profit, even though the grade of ore be low." This description appears to apply very fairly to the Pahang gold fields generally, so far as they have been proved. Shareholders may fairly look forward to receiving substantial dividends at no distant date, but if they look for anything very sensational they will probably be disappointed. During the year ended the 30th September

last about \$190,000 worth of gold was won at the Punjom Company's mine, and at Raub, during the year ended the 28th February last, the amount was a little over \$12,000, or, say, \$120,000. Both Companies have paid development expenses out of earnings, the Punjom Company having written off last year no less than \$46,704, which amount was expended in new machinery and plant and general development. In the Raub accounts the amount written off is only \$135, and the expenditure on development cannot be easily traced in the balance sheet, but according to the Chairman's speech at the annual meeting, additional machinery and permanent works amounting to \$22,000 had been paid for. The results are satisfactory as far as they go, especially in the case of Punjom, whose paid up capital is only \$250,000 as against Raub's \$146,833, or in round figures a million and a half of dollars. Punjom with its small capital ought soon to find itself in a position to pay dividends, and Raub, though its capital is so much larger, we hope will not be far behind.

THE SITUATION IN SOUTH FORMOSA.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE BRITISH GUARD.

GREAT CONSTERNATION.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

ANPING, VIA AMOY, 29th June.

The Admiral has ordered the withdrawal of the British land forces and all foreigners from Tainanfu and Anping.

Utter consternation prevails amongst the merchants, who simply cannot comply.

Hopes are entertained that other foreign protection will be afforded; otherwise the position of the community will be most critical.

ANPING, VIA AMOY, 1st July.

In spite of a telegram from the Minister saying the land forces should be retained all the Marines have been withdrawn.

The community remain.

The situation is more than critical.

ANPING, VIA AMOY, 2nd July.

The Custom-House is closed and trade is suspended.

The community are safe so far.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Anping, 22nd June.

It is reported that H.M.S. *Plover* and *Pigmy* are to reinforce the squadron. The weather, so far, is fine, but there is much growling on board the ships, in consequence of their all being cleared for action, which necessitates full steam up, awnings taken in, and the adoption of many discomforts appertaining to warfare.

Liu still insists upon the withdrawal of the British forces and consequently every precaution is being taken to guard the approaches to the settlement. Several more guns have been landed. It appears that the *literati* are taking a very active part in the present crisis, stirring up the people against foreigners and carrying absurd reports to the Governor.

Very few passengers are leaving for the mainland, owing to the strict search made by Liu and his soldiers, who open every package of luggage and simply plunder all the money and valuables they can lay their hands on. Armed parties of Black Flags, detailed for this purpose, are no longer allowed in the settlement, and the examination is now made on the city road. In the event of an attack by the Japanese, it is proposed to stop all soldiers coming into Anping, difficult as the task will doubtless be.

The health and spirits of the land forces are excellent.

BRITISH SETTLEMENT BARRICADED.

The *Thales* arrived at Hongkong on Thursday, and brought the news that all was quiet at Tainanfu on the 23rd inst. The British men-of-war were cleared for action, and a guard of marines is posted in the town day and night. It is estimated that there are 3,000 Black Flags at Tainanfu and Anping, and it has been thought advisable to barricade the foreign settle-

ment. Not more than eight rebels are allowed in the settlement at one time. It is said that the Black Flags are building earthworks round the forts, and preparing for an attack by the Japanese. On the night of the 23rd inst. the officers of the *Thales* sighted half a dozen Japanese men-of-war entering Makung Harbour, and it was thought they would leave the same night for Tainanfoo. There was a heavy south-west swell on at the time.

THE PLAGUE.

Sanitary Board,
25th June, 1895.

During the past 24 hours there has been no new case of plague reported. No death has occurred among those under treatment at the Kennedytown Hospital.

The following are the statistics of cases of plague from June 14th to noon this day:—

No. of cases reported	13
" " deaths	11
" " cases under treatment	2

The total number of deaths from plague since the 29th of April, the day on which the first case was reported, is sixteen.

W. EDWARD CROW,
Assistant Sanitary Superintendent.

Sanitary Board,
Hongkong, 26th June, 1895.

No new case of plague has been reported and no death has occurred during the past 24 hours.

The following are the statistics of cases of plague from June 14th to noon this day:—

No. of cases reported	13
" " deaths	11
" " cases under treatment	2

The total number of deaths from plague since the 29th of April, the day on which the first case was reported, is sixteen.

W. E. CROW,
Assist. Sanitary Superintendent.

Sanitary Board,
27th June, 1895.

There are now no cases of plague under treatment in Kennedytown Hospital. The patient from 235, Queen's Road West died yesterday afternoon. The other case mentioned in the last daily return as being under treatment was not a case of plague.

The following are the statistics from June 14th to noon this day:—

No. of cases reported	12
" " deaths	12
" " cases under treatment	None

The total number of deaths since the 29th of April, the day on which the first case was reported, is seventeen.

W. EDWARD CROW,
Assist. Sanitary Superintendent.

A Chinese passenger suffering from plague arrived from Canton by the steamer *Futshan* on Sunday morning. The patient was transferred to the Kennedytown Hospital, and died there at 3.30 a.m. on Sunday.

The statistics of the Lappa Plague Hospital, Macao, for the six days ended 28th June are as follows, the day being counted from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m.:—

	New cases.	Deaths.	Discharges.
June 23.....	3	3	8
" 24.....	6	2	—
" 25.....	3	10	—
" 26.....	6	3	—
" 27.....	5	4	4
" 28.....	8	4	—
Total...31		26	12

The Japanese *Official Gazette* says that the Sasebo Prize Court gave on the 12th inst. judgment in the case of 220 boxes of small arm ammunition, etc., which were seized by the *Tsukuba Kan* from the lighter *Pekin* of the Tug and Lighter Co., Taku, when alongside the steamer *Kikang* on the 9th of April last, off Taku. The Court decided that the articles in question, being contraband of war which a belligerent state is entitled to seize outside the territory of neutral states, without respect to the personage of the owner or the nationality of the vessel, they were proper prizes of war.

THE OUTRAGES IN SZECHUEN.

A private letter from Chungking dated the 3rd instant conveys the following news:—We have every reason to believe that all C. M. S. friends and houses are perfectly safe (at Chêngtu), as yesterday I received a wire from Mr. Jackson saying "all well." Our fellow workers of the Canadian Methodist, American Methodist Episcopal, China Inland, and Roman Catholic Missions have not fared so well. The hospital and dwelling houses of the first mission were burnt down on the 28th ultimo, and on the following day those of the other missions shared a similar fate. A telegram to the British Consul here states that although the foreigners, some twenty odd persons, were concealed in the yamen there was still great danger, but later in the day another telegram stated: "Viceroy acting, prospects better," which implies that the officials did not at first show too much activity. According to a native telegram, foreigners having killed a boy, their places were burnt down and looted, and then a mutilated corpse was discovered under the floor boards of one of the houses. This story was sent all along the line, and is hardly calculated to soothe matters. At Chungking things seem to be quiet; the Taotai desires to prevent any disturbances and has spies all over the city taking note of the conversation in the teashops. On the 1st instant the gatekeeper of Mr. Murray's house which adjoins the C. I. M. premises was warned to move because it was said rioters intended to commence with the latter place and then go on to the other missions. According to the latest news received on the 3rd instant through the Roman Catholics, the ladies and children of the other missions were on their way to Chungking by boat.

A private letter written at Kiating on the 1st instant by a Chêngtu missionary giving additional details of the riots in Szechuen, and to some extent explaining the case which Chinese reports have represented as the cause of the outbreak, has been received in Shanghai, and courteously placed at our disposal:—

We escaped the riot by about two hours and a half in this way. We left the city at four o'clock p.m. on the 28th. We could not have left the next day at all as it was the big Dragon feast, and at four o'clock of the 29th our compounds were burnt to the ground, that is, the dwellings, schools, and chapel in one, and adjoining was the hospital. From our place they went to the C. I. M., carrying off every stick in the place. The compound where the ladies of our W. M. S. lived was also rioted, the ladies going over the wall into a neighbour's. Next morning they began with the M. E. mission, cleaning it out completely, even to the walls and the leaves on the trees. The new house belonging to our mission that Mr. Hartnall was living in was also looted and burned. Mrs. Hartnall escaping to the C. I. M. after being driven with the W. M. S. ladies out of their house. The Catholics had five different stations, at one of which was a cathedral two hundred and seventy feet long, or rather the whole building in which the cathedral was was that length. All these different places are utterly wiped out. All the foreigners are at the yamen of one of the magistrates. The *Fu* himself came and looked at the work of destruction going on, then got into his chair and had not gone forty yards before they were at it again. I don't know whether or not you know that in Chêngtu we have two *Huans* who manage the city's affairs, each in his own district which are quite distinct the one from the other. Well, a curious fact in connection with the American missionaries is, that they were taken to the magistrate on our side, out of their own district entirely, as if it were a well-planned scheme between them that the foreigners should be collected in one place. They may have been liberated by this time and on their way down the river, for all we know, but Hartnall says the rumour there is that no foreigner will be allowed to leave the city. We don't know whether to believe this or not. But it does not seem reasonable to watch the city gates, when they are all in one room at the yamen. Mrs. Stevenson and Mrs. Kilborn with four children crawled out on to the street through a hole in the big hospital gate that the mob was breaking in. And this so upset the rioters that it gave them a chance to escape. They tried several houses, as well as the fort near by, but were driven off each place, one of the soldiers kicking

Mrs. Stevenson and driving them off with curses. These women with the children wandered about the city wall till midnight, then went to the C. I. M. till the early morning when the mob reached there. Of course we sent a messenger to the capital at once, and now we are anxiously awaiting developments. The Endicotts leave for down river early Monday morning; another family leaves for the Suifu mountains the next day. But the doctor will remain here for the present. And of course I remain with him. We are making all preparations for a hurried departure, and we have a good strong rope, which we will use to let ourselves down over the wall if they make any fuss in the night. The city is full of students who are just going into their examinations, and when they come out they may make a fuss, and it is well to be prepared. Endicott takes most of the silver and all the deeds of the various properties with him to Chungking, and perhaps farther. . . I had what might have been a serious thing happen to me some time ago. I had operated on a woman in confinement. . . As a result of the care they get in their homes, she had a good deal of temperature and I went to see her twice a day for over a week, generally paying my own chair hire. She got almost well, and I did not see her for five or six days, when they sent for me and I found general pelvic peritonitis. I did all I could for her at the time, but she was vomiting everything and I saw she could not live. The child, however, was thriving. That evening I saw her again and for the awful pain I gave her morphine injection. She died somewhere about seven or half-past, and at eleven o'clock at night they sent for me. I went, taking a couple of assistants, and as it was only about half-a-mile I walked. A very casual examination convinced me that she was dead, and as soon as I said so, the husband sprang and barred the door and would not let me out. I shook him up pretty lively and he opened the door, and I sent my second assistant on ahead with my grip, keeping the teacher with me. No sooner did we get out of the courtyard on to the street than he was after me, and begging me to give his wife some foreign medicine and cure her. He called out two or three times and men came running out of all the houses round, putting on their clothes as they came. In a very few minutes I had a crowd of nearly fifty and this man began to catch hold of me in a way I did not like. I told him if he came to the hospital next day I would talk to him. But he would not listen. He then caught hold of me by the collar of my flannel shirt in a way that was anything but gentle, but I made no resistance. At last his hold loosened a little and at the same time a man hit me from behind and ran sideways. I broke from the fellow that held me and caught the other fellow finely and knocked him end ways, and it felt good too. The crowd calling out "Strike the foreigner!" "Kill the foreigner!" and getting larger and larger every minute, determined me to make a run for it, which I did, with the whole pack after me like devils. I soon saw that I could out-run them, and kept ahead of them, till I overtook my assistant with my grip, and I made him travel I can tell you. He got the street gates open for me. And we soon got to the hospital, that was shut of course, and it seemed like an eternity before the man opened it. I hadn't time to shut it before they were at the gate and throwing themselves against it forced it open. Not a man would help. I caught the ringleader, and half dragged, half carried him into the hospital, then dropped him as I saw no one was trying to shut the gate and people still coming in, though it was now midnight. I got them out all except the dead woman's husband, and I wanted to keep him, but as I was trying to put up the bars he caught me by the knees and dragged me down and fled. I lost my hat and walking stick I took with me, and will never see them again, of course. After getting the gate shut I went up to the house, washed the blood out of my eyes, from a cut head, then went back and opened the gate and went out, but could not see anybody that looked like the man I wanted. Next day, of course, we took up the matter and brought it to the notice of the officials, but they have done very little in the matter. They held an inquest on the corpse, and for a couple of days the whole section was in an uproar, thousands of people going to see her, if you can believe our servants. On top of this affair came all kinds of extravagant rumours of what I had done to her—cutting her open, etc.

People going past our doors would say "burn out the foreigners" and such like remarks, and still we thought nothing particular of it. Stories about four of us going to carry a large stone full of gold that was in the river outside the East gate were started and for days you couldn't get near the place for the throng going a-foot and in chairs to see it. The huge stone cone outside the West gate has spoken and told the people that all the dry weather was on account of the foreigners and next year we were going to take the whole province. Such stories as these evidently inflamed the people, and when the city was crowded at the feast, the whole thing broke out. You cannot calculate the harm to the mission work at present, to say nothing of the monetary loss. This will be a thing for the home offices to settle through Peking, which will take time. Meanwhile there will be nothing done in Chengtu and perhaps in the whole province.—*N. C. Daily News.*

The Chungking correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes on the 9th inst. as follows:—

On the 28th of May, the fifth of the fifth moon, a riot occurred at the premises of the Canadian Methodist Mission, their hospital, dispensary, and chapel being looted and burned. Although the mob were kept at bay for an hour or two, and although yamens were near and soldiers' barracks were about five minutes' walk away, no attention was paid to requests for assistance. After resting for the night the mob began the next day, and when the day was ended nothing remained of the eleven places of the Protestant and Roman Catholic Missions. In every case the officials made a mere pretence of protection or flatly refused it. All took their cue from the Viceroy who had been degraded and seemed to think nothing worse could befall him. His hostility to foreigners has been notorious for several years, and he seems to have intended to give a parting hit as he was about to leave. Even when the flames were bursting out of the premises of the Roman Catholic Bishop, a stone's throw away, he lifted not a finger to help, merely remarking that this was a calamity for his successors to attend to. There is a mass of harrowing details which I cannot stop to give. No doubt you will have heard them more fully from some one at or near the scene of trouble. Ladies with their little ones climbed over back walls and hid for hours in the dirtiest holes. When discovered there were cases where ransoms were paid by both foreigners and native Christians. There were cases of flight from one mission to another, only to be mobbed and compelled to flee again. The members of the American Methodist Episcopal Mission climbed by a ladder over a wall to a neighbour's and remained twelve hours in a dirty little loft, watching at the distance of six feet the destruction of their property. Some of the Canadian Methodist missionaries who sought protection at the soldiers' barracks were driven out, one of the ladies with her little ones being kicked by the brutal soldiers. At length all took refuge at the yamen of the District Magistrate. This is now the twelfth day and they are still there without so much as a change of clothing. There are nearly a score of them, men and women, and a large number of small children. We do not know certainly about the Roman Catholics.

In the meantime the contagion is daily spreading. Yesterday we learned that Kiating-fu and Yachoufu had met the same fate as Chengtu. Yachou is about 100 miles west of Kiating. The report is that the missionaries there have been beaten. Some of the Kiating missionaries took refuge in the yamen and some got away on boats and have arrived at Chungking. As at Chengtu, so at Kiating, the officials would render no assistance until the mob had done their work. The presence of students for the examinations furnished unlimited material for a mob. The Kiating riot occurred on the 4th of June, just a week after the work began at Chengtu. The Yachou riot was earlier than the Kiating one, but we have not the particulars. Other smaller cities have met the same fate, and the list is almost daily increasing. Much apprehension is felt for the missionaries of the China Inland Mission scattered in several stations over the Chengtu plain, away from water and telegraph communication.

When the Kiating refugees passed Suichou they found most of the missionaries on boats a few miles below awaiting developments. The

city had been placarded, but there the officials were vigilant and patrolling the streets.

Of course Chungking is not a little stirred by the riot news from elsewhere; but the Taotai is friendly and is apparently doing his best to keep order. It is impossible to tell what may be the end of it all. There are about a score of stations in the province occupied by Protestant missionaries, who number about 140, including both sexes. The Catholics are almost everywhere.

We cannot tell when the ball set rolling by the Viceroy will stop. If the foreign governments do not take stringent measures there may be a clean sweep of the whole province. People are saying that the Emperor has ordered the Viceroy to drive out all the foreigners, beginning at Chengtu.

A private letter from Chungking, dated the 8th of June, says the riot appears to have been almost altogether a matter of looting:—

"The Viceroy," continues the writer, "had plenty of notice, and I believe could have stopped the row had he wished to do so. As it was, he allowed the Roman Catholic Mission, separated from his own yamen by a narrow lane only, to burn without an attempt to save it. We think that if he gets his deserts he will finish up without his head. If he didn't instigate the row he did nothing whatever to stop it, and appears to have treated the foreigners as shabbily as he could. Up to date, we know of only two places outside of Chengtu having been attacked. These are both Roman Catholic stations to the south or south-west of the city. There have been rumours about Kiating and Suichou and Yachou; but we know that Kiating was safe on Monday last, although feeling was strained. Here all is quiet. Various rumours are flying about, but the people are perfectly friendly. The Taotai, Pashien, and Chint'ai are working together in taking precautionary measures, and we trust their promptness will have its effect. Two processions have been stopped already, and the usual big one on the 20th of the Chinese moon is put off for a year. Any danger there may be lies in the expected presence of roughs from Chengtu; but if the officials keep a stiff upper lip we are very hopeful that nothing will happen. The Taotai had his bodyguard out this morning at target practice. There are said to be 320 of them, and they are armed with good European rifles and bayonets. . . . A man from Chengtu was caught in one of the inns here last night, with a repeating rifle and five knives in his possession. He was at once laid by the heels and put to the torture, but we don't know whether he divulged anything."

This is what the Chengtu correspondent of the *Shenpao* says as to the origin of the riots against missionaries in Sz-chuen province, commencing with that city. We (*N. C. Daily News*) translate his account rather fully as it is interesting as being a Chinese view of the affair.

"The Canadian Mission had been in existence in Chengtu for several years. In the 4th moon of this year (May) a certain native woman in the city happened to be dangerously ill through childbirth and in consequence her family engaged the services of a foreign doctor. It was not a success and the woman died. The family of the dead woman laid the blame upon the foreign doctor and from this time forth false rumours began gradually to be spread about impugning the honesty of the missionaries. Anonymous placards also began to be posted up traducing and libelling the foreign missions, the most serious charges accusing the foreigners of killing young boys to obtain certain drugs and in some cases actually eating them. The missionaries therefore reported the matter to the local authorities, requesting them to issue counter proclamations denying such charges and forbidding the posting of such libels in the future. But it must be confessed that the authorities paid no attention to the protestations of the missionaries. It is a popular custom handed down by tradition in Chengtu for the people of the city and suburban villages to gather in large numbers at the military assembly grounds at the East gate of the city on the 5th day of the 5th moon (23rd of May this year) or Dragon Festival, and forming into parties of hundreds and even a thousand or so to pelt green plums at each other: the rich providing this sort of ammunition, which is given free to those who wish to join the sports. It unluckily happened that a female convert in charge of several native pupils of the mission schools also went to

view the sports there. During the fun a plum accidentally hit the woman, which being taken as premeditated was at once resented by her. A wordy war resulted. This attracted a crowd and the woman fearing the consequences began to leave the grounds with her youthful charges, pursued by a mob of young rowdies. She was apparently recognised as a convert and the people being already inflamed against the missionaries by the placards, the crowd began to be hostile; but before they could catch hold of the woman she and the children got inside the mission compound and the gates were at once shut upon the mob outside. Hereupon a number of them began to call out that the foreigners had kidnapped some children and demanded that they should be given up to the people. The mob gathering in size became bolder and succeeded at last in breaking down the heavy entrance gates of the compound. They then made a rush inside, eager to plunder and pillage whatever they could lay their hands upon. By the time the mandarins and their runners made their appearance on the scene the hospital and chapel had already been burned down. On the 29th and 30th of May (the 6th and 7th of the 5th Moon) the other Protestant missions were wrecked and pillaged in succession by the rowdies and desperadoes, winding up with the tearing down and burning of the Roman Catholic Church and houses situated within a stone's throw of the Viceroy's yamen. Although in a capital like Chengtu there is a large army and the various yamens have a strong force of runners and thief-takers, they made only a hollow show of pretence when ordered to suppress the riot, preferring to remain spectators. But the most extraordinary thing was the production by the rioters of a dead man's head, two hands, and some human bones which they carried to the *Chehsien's* yamen charging the foreigners with having murdered the man, declaring that they dug them out of the mission compounds. I wonder where they managed to get these gruesome objects. They also daubed the walls of the mission houses with blood, saying that this was a proof that people had been murdered by the foreigners. With regard to the missionaries, young and old, a number of them were compelled to fly for their lives and crouch under the city walls exposed to the dews of heaven for a night. The next day they were temporarily domiciled in the yamen of the Huayang *chehsien*. As for the missionary buildings and chapels there is not a single one now left in Chengtu. The desolation is complete. It is also reported that soon after the news of the Chengtu riots was spread into the inland towns the mobs of the districts of Hsinchin and Pengshan followed suit and the objectionable rumours which had inflamed the populace of Chengtu are now being disseminated in the lower portions of the Yangtze valley. The affair has become such a grave problem that the future can be only a matter of conjecture."

The following, the *Peking and Tientsin Times* says, is a succinct statement of the official account received in the yamen of the Viceroy of Chihli at Tientsin; the statement made by the miscreant Liu—Viceroy Liu—in his own exculpation and defence:—

There was a procession, a *Hui*, on the streets of Chengtu, and a foreigner got into the crowd, who hustled him about. Finding himself hustled he used his stick; whereupon he was attacked by the mob and took to flight. He got into the house, fastened the door, and taking a gun fired on the mob, who had surrounded the house, killing two persons. Then the crowd gutted and burnt the building, the foreign residents escaping to the yamen. Inside, the people found two Chinese children, kept in a cage of some kind. They were in a state of suspended animation. These children were taken to the yamen and skilful Chinese doctors were there called in, who, on examining them, found some kind of black drug introduced into their nostrils which was the cause of their insensibility. By the use of remedies the doctors restored them to consciousness, when the children related how they had been kidnapped by the foreigner, who administered the drug, and they knew no more. Upon this dreadful crime being brought to light by an open examination in a Chinese Court of Law the people were fired with indignation and the disturbances were spreading in all directions, much to the grief of this virtuous Viceroy, who was powerless to control the disorder.

FRANCE AND THE SZECHUEN OUTRAGES.

PROPOSED NAVAL DEMONSTRATION.

We take the following from the *China Gazette* of the 19th inst.:—The French Government is not going to stand any more nonsense from the Chinese officials. We have already mentioned that, terrified by the storm raised about their ears by the energetic French Minister, the Tsung-li Yamen offered in the most abject manner to make whatever reparation was demanded in money, but the French Minister indignantly refused to listen to any such humiliating settlements as the British and American Governments have for years been in the habit of accepting in similar cases. We now learn that the French Government not only claims for the destruction of many millions worth of property in Szechuen, and for the fullest reparation for the glaring outrages upon French missionaries, but has taken the opportunity of demanding satisfaction for a list of other outrages extending back many years, which the Chinese probably thought had long been forgotten. We understand that full plenary powers have been placed in the hands of the French diplomatic authorities in China to enforce their demands, and with this object in view a formidable squadron, consisting of the cruisers *Isly*, *Alger*, *Forfait*, *Beautemps*, *Beaupré*, and the gunboat *Comète* are being assembled at Woosung. Preparations are being made to teach the Chinese officials along the Yangtze a lesson they will not soon forget, unless the guilty parties in the Chengtu outrages are produced and properly punished forthwith. We understand that after this has been done the French Minister, along with the Tsung-li Yamen and the representatives of the destroyed missions in Szechuen, will discuss the monetary claims, which amount to some millions. Altogether a very bad quarter of an hour is in store for the Chinese Government. Meanwhile what are Sir Roderick O'Connor and Col. Denby doing? Dreaming and sipping weak tea, as usual, "holding the officials responsible" and "insisting upon the utmost energy" in worthless despatches.

The same paper in its issue of the following day says:—We learn upon excellent authority that the Tsung-li Yamen has given the French Minister assurances that everything he demands in satisfaction for the outrages in Szechuen will be immediately granted. M. Gerard deserves the thanks of the entire civilized world for the energetic and effective manner in which he has brought the treacherous Peking Government to task in this matter. Had the Szechuen officials only murdered a few forlorn British or American missionaries all would have been well; a few thousand taels would have satisfied the debt against the civilization and the breach of our most sacred rights. But in organizing the recent extensive crusade against the French Mission and imprisoning the Bishops as common malefactors, the Chinese officials have exceeded the limits of French patience, and have found a Tartar in the French Minister at Peking. His action was exactly what the British Minister's ought to have been. M. Gerard got his government to place five or six ships at his disposal and then presented a statement of his nationals' complaints, going back to some twenty years, with a list of the officials responsible and very plainly worded demands of what he wanted done. A certain time was given to the Chinese Government to reply, and M. Gerard made it clear that failure to comply with his demands would be followed by unpleasant activity on the part of his formidable squadron up the Yangtze. Amongst the points insisted upon are the trial of Liu, the Viceroy of Szechuen, and of all the officials implicated in the recent outrages, before a tribunal at which a French Commissioner will sit; the reinstatement of all French missions in the places from which they have been driven out in recent years, and the rebuilding of their premises by the Chinese Government. The missions on the Tibetan frontier are included in the claim. The Tsung-li Yamen has promised to comply with all these demands, and meanwhile the French fleet is kept waiting at Woosung, ready to proceed up the river at short notice. If the Chinese Government fails to keep its promises we believe that Nanking will be the first place at which the squadron will "demonstrate,"

as nine-tenths of the present trouble are legacies of Chang Chih-tung's regime as Viceroy of the Hu provinces. The *Isly* has arrived, and everything is in readiness. Telegraphic communication between the French Minister in Peking and missionaries in Chengtu is now unrestricted.

IMPORTANT IMPERIAL DECREE.

The vigorous measures adopted by M. Gerard, French Minister to the Court of Peking, with reference to the Szechuen outrages appear already to be bearing fruit. The French Consul-General has received a telegram from Peking stating that an Imperial Decree was issued on the 25th June, in which the Emperor orders the Tsung-li Yamen to procure an immediate settlement of the Szechuen difficulty on the lines laid down by M. Gerard. These, it will be remembered, include the trial of the Viceroy Liu and other officials implicated in the infernal disorders which recently reigned in Chengtu before a court at which a French Commissioner will occupy a seat. The "pacific demonstration" by the French Squadron has been effective ere it has been even made, and if there should be any shilly-shallying on the part of the Tsung-li Yamen about obeying the Decree, we may be sure the French will press the advantage they have obtained in the most determined manner. The *Isly*, *Alger*, and *Beautemps* *Beaupré* left Woosung at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 26th June for Nanking.—*China Gazette*.

THE POWERS OF THE MAGISTRATE.

AN IMPORTANT POINT.

At the Police Court on Monday Mr. Hastings (from Mr. Deacon's office) made an application to the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse on behalf of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., for warrants under Act 1 and 2 Victoria, chapter 74, for the ejectment of about fifty squatters from land at East Point belonging to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co.

Mr. Hastings stated that notices to quit had been served on the squatters, but possession of the tenements had not been delivered up. There was no Ordinance in this colony enabling the Magistrate to order possession to be given up under these circumstances, but by an Imperial Act, No. 1 and 2 Victoria, chapter 74, the Magistrate had the powers required. That Act applied to the recovery of possession of small tenements at a rent of under £20 a year, and was passed for the purpose of avoiding the expense of taking ejectment proceedings in such cases in the Supreme Court. The Act was passed in the year 1838, and therefore was in force in this colony by virtue of Ordinance 12 of 1873, which enacted that such of the laws in England as existed when the colony obtained a local legislature, that was to say, on 5th April, 1843, shall be in force within the colony, except so far as the said laws shall be inapplicable to the local circumstances of the colony and of its inhabitants.

The Magistrate—That is so.

Mr. Hastings—I submit that this is a law which is applicable to the circumstances of the colony and of its inhabitants. There are plenty of small tenements in the colony, and the Act was passed for the purpose of obtaining possession of these small tenements, when the tenancy had expired, without resorting to proceedings in the Supreme Court. The object of the Act was to make the proceedings easier, cheaper, and more simple.

The Magistrate—Undoubtedly.

Mr. Hastings—Granting that there are a number of small tenements in this colony, the provisions of the Act are of as much use here as in England.

The Magistrate—Certainly.

Mr. Hastings—Then I submit that that Act is applicable to the local circumstances of this colony and of the inhabitants; therefore under the Ordinance of 1873 the Act can be enforced here.

The Magistrate—Under that Act I consider I am not the party to be appealed to. I am not sitting in petty sessions; I am Magistrate for the colony; therefore it is not for you to make the application to me.

Mr. Hastings—I think so.

The Magistrate—That is my decision.

Mr. Hastings—You have not heard my argument yet. Under that Act the application must be made to the Justices of the Peace for the district in which the tenement is situated. I

submit that your Worship has jurisdiction under the Magistrates Ordinance 10 of 1890, section 7 of which enacts that "whenever by any statute in force in this colony any proceeding, act, or thing is authorised to be taken or done by a Justice or Justices of the Peace the same may be taken or done by one Magistrate." That, I take it, is the description of your Worship. This is the power given by a home statute at present in force, and under that Ordinance the power can be exercised by your Worship as a Magistrate. Under the Ordinance I submit your Worship represents two justices who have to sit in England, and therefore, that Ordinance being in force here, you, having power under it, are bound to exercise that power on the request of any person who makes a complaint before you. I submit that if you have the power it should be exercised on the complaint being made; it is not for the Magistrate to say whether the power will be exercised or not, but if he is satisfied he has it, then the person aggrieved is entitled to ask for the power to be exercised and he should not be thrown back upon the more expensive proceedings in the Supreme Court. If your Worship does not exercise this power it will be necessary to bring over fifty actions in the Supreme Court, and that is one of the reasons I ask you for the powers to be exercised. If your Worship is still against me I would ask you to adjourn the case, as it seems that, *prima facie*, you have the power, and I shall then be able to produce authorities on the subject; or if your Worship would hear my evidence and give your decision, then my clients can appeal to the Supreme Court if you should be against them.

The Magistrate—I must decline to do what you wish me to do. It appears that you have given notice to certain tenants to appear before me to-day under the Act 1 and 2 Victoria, chapter 74, and for all I know they may be here; but in giving them notice to be present you have acted on your own responsibility, and it is not a matter which I can recognise. I have looked at the Act 1 and 2 Victoria, chapter 74, and on reading it it appears to me that this is a matter over which I have no jurisdiction whatever, and I cannot even assume jurisdiction to the extent of adjourning the case. I decline to recognise the notice you have given to the tenants, and if they appear here to-day they appear at their own will, and I shall take no notice of their presence. If, after hearing my decision on this point, you again desire to make an application to me, you can do so, but before I take any proceedings under the Act I must first be satisfied that I have jurisdiction. Under the section "it shall be lawful for the Justices acting for the district, division, or place in which the land, premises, or any part thereof shall be situated, in petty sessions assembled, or any two of them, to issue a warrant, &c." I consider I in no way come under that description, and that the local circumstances of the case do not require that I should come under that description. I am not "a Justice acting for the district, division, or place," and I am not "assembled in petty sessions." I am simply Police Magistrate acting for the colony. To that extent it seems to me that the Act is not applicable so far as I am personally concerned, and I must decline to assume jurisdiction.

ACCIDENT TO THE "TAISANG" IN THE HARBOUR.

About 11.30 on Thursday morning the steamer *Taisang*, which is owned by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, was making for the West Point wharf, when she ran into the sea wall. In turning the steamer round it is probable that something went wrong with the steering gear. A very heavy tide was running to westward, and as the boat had a slight way on, she touched the wall about 150 feet to the west of the wharf. She seemed to strike almost bow on. The forefoot of the boat seemed to be broken, and her bow was twisted round. In addition fifty feet of the solid masonry of great strength was lifted out of its bed, and damage was also done to the flight of steps opposite Nullah Street. The *Taisang* was towed off some time afterwards, and went into dock for repairs. It is a curious coincidence that ten years ago next month the *Taisang*, during a typhoon, ran into the Pottinger Street Wharf, and considerable damage was then done.

HONGKONG AS A SHIPBUILDING CENTRE.

AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION.

A discussion of considerable importance to the shipping and mercantile community in the colony took place on Friday night at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong. The discussion arose on a paper written by Mr. Jack, of Haiphong, and read at the Institution on the 14th inst., on "Engineering and Shipbuilding in the Far East." Mr. Robert Cooke presided, and there was a fairly good attendance.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the object of the meeting, and said that everyone must have been struck with the able manner in which Mr. Jack had compiled the paper. There were very few things in it that could be taken exception to; but one or two items in the tabulated statement might, perhaps, be modified slightly. On the whole, however, Mr. Jack had handled the subject in a very careful and able manner.

Mr. ANDREW JOHNSTON, the Secretary, then read the following letter, which had been received from Mr. Bailey, Chief Engineer of the *Heung-Nam*:—"Taking a broad view of the future of shipbuilding in China it seems very probable that she will soon compete successfully with home yards in the production of ships and machinery of every class; and as proof that this matter is engaging attention at home we have the utterances of Sir Thomas Sutcliffe Clark, who, at a recent meeting of the P. & O. Co., mentioned the probability of future vessels of the Company being built, not in Europe at all, but upon the banks of the Yangtze. In Mr. Jack's estimate, the cost of iron and steel is put down at about 50 per cent. above home prices; and plumber's work, rigging and blocks, iron forgings, ironmongery, paint, and all imported articles are set down at much above home cost. Under these adverse conditions it appears that a vessel may be built here at a small advance on British price, and with these advantages in favour of the locally-built steamers—that the work, being done under the owner's eye, is not likely to require expensive alteration after the vessel is set to work, that the time and expense of the voyage out are saved, and that the money paid for the vessel is circulated among ourselves instead of at home. Our great advantage over home builders is of course cheap labour; and supposing a local yard, such as the Dock Company, to once attain full swing in shipbuilding I think the difference in cost between European and Chinese labour would be even more marked than the paper states. But taking even Mr. Jack's figures for labour, and taking iron and all other items at home prices, it will be seen that the vessels could be built here at much less than home cost. Are we justified in saying that the materials for shipbuilding will in the future be obtainable here at home prices? Certainly we are. That cheap labour, which already tells so strongly in our favour when building, will also tell strongly in the production and manufacture of the raw material from Chinese soil. China is rich in minerals; and iron, mined and manufactured in China, and transported here by rail, could be delivered at Kowloon for less than home cost. Will Britain always hold the premier position in shipbuilding? Our national pride fondly whispers that she will. But it is a long lane that has no turning; and when we consider the vast extent of China, with her teeming millions whose wants must be supplied; when we look at her rivers, and extent of coast line; her mines of iron and coal, and above all, her unlimited supply of cheap and efficient labour waiting employment, the conviction is forced upon us that, were these advantages utilized, we could build ships here as quickly and cheaply as can be done in Europe. Aye! we could build them more cheaply, and we could undersell British firms in their own market. How near the opening up of China may be we cannot tell; but in these unsettled times we know not what a day may bring forth. The great British civilizers, missionaries and gunboats, are already getting to work in China; and once the ball of progress is set rolling advance will be rapid. In his opening sentence Mr. Jack speaks of the value of this Institute and of our craft in the Far East. That the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong may become worthy of its name and something more than a social club, that its influence may be felt in the promotion of shipbuilding and engineering in this port, and that we may

benefit by the discussion of technical questions,—this I take to be Mr. Jack's meaning; and his sentiments will be endorsed by every member who has the dignity and usefulness of his profession at heart. Mr. Jack deserves our thanks for an original and most opportune paper; for now that Japan is progressing rapidly in Western arts, and there appears some prospect of the vast resources of China being opened up—at such a time what better title could be chosen for a paper than "Engineering and Shipbuilding in the Far East."

The CHAIRMAN—It is with a feeling of great diffidence that I rise to make any remarks on the very able paper written by Mr. William C. Jack, who has handled his subject very carefully in most of its important points. Before going further, however, I must, on behalf of Hongkong shipbuilders and engineers in general, and the Company which I have the honour to represent in particular, thank Mr. Jack for the high tribute he has paid to us all for our shipbuilding and engineering skill. I quite agree with him that "We've got the tools and we've got the men," and it only requires shipowners to come forward with orders and thereby give us the opportunity to illustrate to them and to the world that Mr. Jack makes no idle boast when he says "To-day Hongkong is in a position to turn out and equip sea-going steamers in every way equal to the home article." And from my own experience—which is not a short one—I am able to state that a steamer, constructed in Hongkong, can be as faithfully built, engined, and equipped as in any European shipyard, and more suitable to Eastern requirements. If we take, as Mr. Jack has done, the cost of bringing a steamer out from home into consideration, then our prices will compare most favourably with home rates; more particularly if the vessel should be a small one, say under 1,000 tons, as such a vessel could not obtain payable freight, and consequently the whole expense of bringing such a steamer from Europe to China would be so much added to her laid-down cost here. In the table of figures given by Mr. Jack some of the items may be taken exception to. For instance, in iron shipbuilders' work, the first item for iron and steel, 40 per cent. added to the home rates for the raw material, is in my opinion too high a percentage to be allowed for Hongkong; I should say 25 to 30 per cent. would be about right. The next item, keel and stern frame, I feel sure could be forged in Hongkong under proper supervision at a cost of 10 per cent. over home prices. Carpenters' work, men's wages, I think 50 per cent. too much to deduct from home prices for those of Hongkong, as with the intelligence and machine work brought to bear by workmen at home now, against the, still in a great measure, hand labour and perverseness of many of the Chinese mechanics, the difference in favour of native labour is not so great as at first appearing. I think had Mr. Jack allowed under this head 25 per cent. in favour of Hongkong rates, he would have been nearer the mark. Also under the head of joiners' work, in the item for joiners' wages the same allowance, viz 25 per cent., would be ample. I pick out these few items as those which strike me as the principal discrepancies in the shipbuilding part of the steamer quoted, but as the differences are so small, I think we may take Mr. Jack's figures throughout as very nearly correct. I therefore consider that on the whole Mr. Jack has fairly demonstrated to us that the building of a ship of 1,000 tons can be effected in Hongkong at a cost of 13/10d. per ton gross over home prices; and when we consider the cost of bringing such a vessel from home, under the most favourable circumstances, the balance is very largely in favor of the Hongkong-built ship. Before closing my remarks on Mr. Jack's paper, I must say that I consider he has done Hongkong, and thereby this Institution, material service in handling this subject in such an able manner, and I sincerely trust that the publication of the paper and others of a similar nature may be the means of pointing out to local and coast shipowners the ready means they have at hand for building steamers and engines that will compare favourably with those built in Europe both as to workmanship and ultimate cost, and this would likewise refer to vessels of even larger dimensions than the one above quoted. In fact, I see no reason why shipbuilding in Hongkong should not successfully compete with European yards if we keep up our machine shops and yards

to the same standard of excellence in tools and labour-saving appliances as is done in well-conducted home yards. I hope the Hongkong shipbuilders and engineers will ever try to maintain their well-earned reputation for turning out good work in all departments, as by so doing they will better further the shipbuilding and engineering interests of this colony and themselves also, as well as add to their present high reputation. Something might be added to what I have already said, but my time has been limited and I could not give the subject all the attention I could have liked. There is a large field in Hongkong and China for engineering and shipbuilding. I think the great drawback is the want of confidence in local concerns. Shipowners seem to doubt the stability and skill of the people in China. I am sure some of the vessels I have seen built in the East would do credit to any home yard of the very best kind. Vessels built in Hongkong and other parts of the East have really been turned out in such a manner that unless you were told that they were built in the East you could not have told that they were not built in a first-class British yard, and that is saying a great deal. (Applause). I think if shipowners and those interested in shipping would only have a little more confidence, particularly in the Hongkong engineers and shipbuilders, they would be treated very well, they would have very faithfully built vessels, and it would be a very great help not only to the prosperity of Hongkong but to shipbuilding and commercial interests in the East generally. (Applause).

Mr. J. KINGHORN asked if any arrangement had been made whereby Mr. Jack would have a chance of replying to the discussion. It was customary for the compiler of a paper to reply. The CHAIRMAN said that no doubt the discussion would be reported in the papers, and the Secretary would forward them to Mr. Jack, who could reply if he thought it necessary.

Mr. KINGHORN said he had not been able to consider Mr. Jack's ideas in such a complete form as he would have liked. He thought everyone must be proud that the Institution had so large an influence over the shipbuilding in the Far East, and he trusted that members would bear in mind that fact, and be encouraged to bring this important subject more prominently before the public. He thought it was a matter of history that eighty-five per cent. of the members did not take a real interest in the affairs of the Institution. Referring to the paper the speaker said that Mr. Jack pointed out that Hongkong was famous for a splendid fleet of steam launches; this was known all over the world. Travellers had said that there were more steam launches in Hongkong than in any other port of the world, and they were better and finer looking than any they had seen. But he (Mr. Kinghorn) thought the Hongkong steam launches wanted something. To his idea they were as fine looking on the outside as they were dirty and expensive in the inside—and they were most expensive to maintain. There was no doubt they were built cheaper here than in any part of the world; but there was plenty of room for improvement, and the day was not far distant when the dirty looking expensive boiler would be discarded, and we would have a fine fleet of launches driven entirely by oil. (Hear, Hear). The question of price was a most important one from the owners' point of view, and he drew attention to an article which appeared in a technical paper written by Mr. F. Elgar and which referred to the price of shipbuilding in the Far East. It said that "the demand for larger steamers was rapidly increasing, and steamships of a moderate size could now be built in Japan at a much less price than they could be laid down, built and delivered by an English firm. This seemed very hard on English supremacy in shipbuilding. The Japanese were highly qualified for and were very successful in the work which was required in the construction of modern ships and machinery. In all the various departments of shipbuilding the Japanese were excellent. They were as intelligent as the European mechanic, quicker in perception, and possessed a lighter touch; they were more susceptible to discipline; labour difficulties were unknown; wages were very low and were paid in silver; and the Japanese were in every respect efficient workers." This was a very high character for the Japanese. One of Mr. Jack's items was that 536 tons of iron and steel cost £2,858 or £1,141 1/2 per ton. He (the speaker) had never heard of such prices.

There were other figures which would be bad enough to work out in cool weather, but when the thermometer stood at 90 in the shade, they were too much for him altogether. He would like to know how Mr. Jack arrived at his figures, because one never knew when one might be called upon to make a bill of costs something like Mr. Jack's. But he hoped that this would not be the last paper which Mr. Jack would write, as he was eminently qualified to write about the subject, and it was to be hoped that Mr. Jack would see that the Institute had appreciated his efforts. (Applause).

The CHAIRMAN said that it was more than likely that Mr. Jack had obtained his figures from very reliable sources. At the time the steamers he mentioned were built iron and steel were very low in price, and that fact accounted, in some measure, for the low rates he quoted.

Mr. KINGHORN did not wish to doubt the correctness of Mr. Jack's paper. All he wished to point out was the difficulty, in this hot weather, of keeping one's head in making the calculations.

Mr. JOHNSON said that when prices were low he had seen steel quoted at less than £4 10s. a ton, and boiler plates at £5 10s. 6d. Of course lately there had been a big rise. A year or two ago, when business was very dull, steel manufacturers got orders simply to keep the works open. They were not making any profit, and ship plates were down at £4 10s. a ton.

Mr. WINTERBURN thought that Mr. Jack had taken a rosy view of shipbuilding in the East, and the Chairman agreed with him, and as they represented the largest ship yards out here their opinion was very valuable. For his part he thought it would be a considerable time before iron ships would be built to a great extent in Hongkong. There was a 2,000 ton ship and another of 1,800 tons on the stocks at Singapore, but these were being built only by way of experiment. In Hongkong there was a great difficulty to contend with in obtaining labour. At home there was a staff of men employed and when trade was bad they migrated to various parts of the country, and there was always an enormous stock of skilled artisan labour to draw upon. In Hongkong the men had to be trained, so that there would be a lot of trouble before they could gain a good experience. They could no doubt build wooden vessels all right, as Chinese were remarkably good carpenters, as they were in all mechanical trades when they were trained. As to the cost of ship-building he thought that Mr. Jack had over-estimated the cost of a Hongkong built boat. He thought one could be built at a cheaper rate than he gave. If there were sufficient orders the cost would be materially reduced, and the work would be developed more. At present a considerable time elapsed between each order, whereas if there were two or three vessels on the stocks at one time there would be a great difference in the cost of building. The paper was one of the most instructive the members had heard and he hoped it would bring the subject to the notice of shipowners. If it resulted in orders being given, its purpose would be admirably served. He thought, however, that shipbuilding in Hongkong would not make much progress unless the port was subsidised by Government. The Japanese had made progress by Government assistance. (Applause).

Mr. MITCHELL said the gist of the whole matter was that, in regard to iron shipbuilding, owners displayed a want of confidence in the yards in the Far East, and seemed to be afraid to entrust shipbuilders out here with the construction of steamers. He thought the want of confidence was not justified. He had not the slightest doubt that there were men in different yards in Hongkong and Shanghai who were quite capable of designing either shipbuilding or engineering work which would be absolutely serviceable. Mr. Jack had said that stern-wheelers could be put in the water and finished for less than the f.o.b. prices of builders of the same type of steamer in England. But Mr. Jack forgot that the firm of which he was manager in Haiphong made a special feature of stern-wheelers, and he had also left out the profit. The price at home covered the profit to the builders, but Mr. Jack's quotation gave no profit. He also referred to the cheap rate at which steamers could be built here as compared with the rate at home. The workmen at home, though, did very much more work, and were in every way competent.

The Chinaman was paid less and did less work, but there was no man who was physically able to do so much work in the East as the Chinaman. He (the speaker) was certain that a steamer could be put in the water in the East at considerably less than a steamer of similar size could be built at home. As regards the time of building he quite agreed with Mr. Jack that if local ship owners were to consider the time of delivery from the time negotiations were opened, local builders could place a steamer in the water and put her on her run much quicker than by bringing her from home. He referred particularly to 1,200 to 1,500 ton ships. But at present he did not think we could build a large steamer, say anything from 2,000 tons, to compare with those at home. There was a lack of workmen. We could command to a great extent the material, but the men could not be found in sufficient numbers. At home, however, plenty of workmen could be found, and it must be considered that in shipbuilding yards almost without exception repairing and building of boats were continually being carried on, and there were comparatively few that combined the two classes of work. But here such was not the case, and if a ship was being built it was almost certain that the work would have to be suspended for a time while repairs were effected on an incoming steamer, otherwise local owners would complain not only that they could not get ships built but that they could not get them repaired in a reasonable time. The time might come when a sufficient number of orders would be given to enable the building and repairing of ships to be carried on at the same time, and thus the local owners would be benefited. Europeans in the East were greatly increasing in numbers. Hongkong was not a place that people came to for a few years, made dollars, and then went home again, as they used to. A large number of Europeans now looked upon Hongkong as their home, and they showed no desire to go anywhere else. Consequently there were men in the colony who were permanent residents and who were able to carry out all the duties necessary in the building of ships, and as the requirements increased he had no doubt that more help would be forthcoming. He had much pleasure in bearing testimony to the good effects that might result from Mr. Jack's paper, and he hoped it would be an example to some of the 85 per cent. of members who took no interest in the papers which had been prepared by the remaining 15 per cent. (Applause).

The CHAIRMAN thought that one great drawback to shipbuilding in Hongkong in particular had been that up to the present shipbuilding had been carried on only to provide men with work and to train them in repairing work. He had not known of any large orders coming into Hongkong, except in one or two instances, for new work. As Mr. Mitchell had said, if orders were given to a large extent it would pay a firm to keep a part of their yard entirely for shipbuilding. There was a great difficulty in finding a sufficient quantity of trained men for the work, but a lot of repairing work was done in Hongkong that helped to train men and properly organise them, so that in a very short time they would be efficient to be employed on a new ship. At present there were not so many men as would be required if shipbuilding were carried on on a very large scale. The work turned out in Hongkong, Singapore, and Shanghai fully justified owners in giving local shipbuilders and engineers an opportunity of showing what ability they had.

Mr. KYLES said his experience was that it was to the care and responsibility of the European heads of departments that the excellent workmanship of the Chinese was due. He had seen heavy work turned out by the Chinese as well as it could have been done at home.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON was of opinion, that, as other gentlemen had said, labour was the great stumbling block to the success of shipbuilding in Hongkong. He thought that if owners were to support the local firms in giving them orders Hongkong could successfully compete with home yards. (Applause). He had had a good deal to do in training Chinese, and had found them very apt. In five or six months they turned out very good workmen indeed. They had opportunities which boys at home did not have, and Hongkong had supplied boiler makers, mechanics, and ships' carpenters both to the north of China and the Straits. He agreed with Mr. Mitchell as to stern-wheelers,

as it did not seem to be possible that they could be built as cheap in Haiphong as they could be in the United Kingdom. With the rest of the paper he agreed. As regards the future of China he mentioned that two years ago he visited both the coal and iron mines of the Tang-shue, belonging to the Viceroy of Hapeh, and in his opinion they only wanted development. As usual, capital was lacking. They simply wanted more money and better tools to get what they were aiming at. The ores were examined and found to be very fine indeed, and equal to anything in England or America. The Hanyang ironworks were on too large a scale, and were wrongly located—far away from the mines. Another point that should be remembered was the silver question; as long as China and Japan continued using silver, they would be able to quote prices far below those of gold-using countries. Already England was feeling this in the cotton trade, in which Japan was going ahead rapidly. Mr. Jack's paper came at an opportune moment, when changes were likely to occur in the whole aspect of business in the East. Hongkong had special advantages for becoming a shipbuilding centre, in being a free port and always having cheap freights to any part of the world. Shanghai had built a special class of river boat, with great success, and Hongkong might do the same for the West river. If the West river was opened up shipbuilding in Hongkong would receive an impetus, and firms would be able to compete with the home people. He thought Mr. Jack deserved very great praise for his able paper.

Mr. ROME asked if we were prepared to compete at a profit with the old country? The general tone that evening was, as far as wooden ships were concerned, yes; as far as composite ships were concerned he should also say yes. Hongkong as a shipbuilding port was in its infancy and they must creep along gradually.

The CHAIRMAN said the meeting had produced a most instructive discussion, and he hoped they would hear more instructive papers read at a future date.

The discussion closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was proposed by Mr. Bain, and seconded by Mr. Rome.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

An entertainment that will be considered by the optimist a happy augury of more cordial relations between the Chinese and their foreign neighbours was held in Shanghai on the evening of the 18th inst. This was a banquet given by the Taotai to some fifty or sixty of the leading European residents of the port, and this is the first occasion on which the Taotai has entertained foreign ladies. The place selected for the dinner was the spacious and handsome pavilion in the popular place of resort known as Chang's Gardens on the Bubbling Well Road, and the occasion served to show how admirably suited the building is for dinner parties as well as balls. Half the lofty hall was partitioned off with handsome folding screens and fitted up as a drawing-room, the remainder being devoted to the dinner tables. On either side of the main entrance ladies' and gentlemen's retiring rooms were arranged, while the verandah looking on to the garden and the spacious gallery running round the entire length of the hall were fitted up as elegant promenades. The dining tables were arranged to form three sides of a square, the decorations being as novel as they were light and graceful. Pale green brocade silk furnished an artistic table centre, finished with buttercup yellow silk loosely puffed along its edges, the silk being covered by innumerable vases of graceful form filled with a variety of delicate flowers, the prevailing tint of which was deep yellow, shading to dark terracotta red in the centre. Little or no foliage was used, the only relief to the yellow being a few white flowers near the Taotai's seat. In harmony with this elegant and unique table decoration was a draping of yellow and red silk carried in festoons round the gallery from looking cheerful without being heavy, the prevailing air of cheerful lightness being sustained by an abundance of bamboo greenery. An excellent precaution against the nuisance caused by the dropping of defunct insects on to the table was taken by the gas chandeliers being enveloped in gauze wire, which cradled

the insect corpses without impoverishing the light. Outside, the grounds presented a charming and fairy-like appearance, the lawns and lakes being festooned with literally myriads of coloured lanterns, while the Town band discoursed a choice selection of pieces from an illuminated tent near the marble terrace, which the guests unanimously favoured at the close of the dinner. As the first occasion of the kind the dinner was certainly a notable one and worthy of being recorded, and it is to be hoped many more entertainments of the kind may be given, and lead to a better understanding and mutual appreciation between the Chinese officials and foreigners. The Taotai is to be congratulated on the great success of the entertainment, which he spared neither trouble nor expense to make thoroughly enjoyable, being kindly assisted in the arrangements by one or two foreign friends. During the dinner one or two short speeches were made, Mr. Stuebel as senior Consul proposing the Taotai's health in a few well-chosen sentences, which showed how great a value the guests attached to the Taotai's hospitality, the toast being heartily drunk with "He's a jolly good fellow" and three cheers. The Taotai responded briefly and genially, the usual toasts following in due course. After dinner a display of fireworks took place, the guests dispersing shortly after midnight. The menu was arranged to comprise Chinese and foreign dishes alternately and was both liberal and choice. From the following lists of guests it will be seen that the banquet was thoroughly representative, the following professions and branches of trade being represented—lawyers, doctors, architects, merchants, bankers, shipping companies, dock companies, insurance companies, telegraph companies, I. M. Customs, Municipal Councils.

GUESTS.

Baron Von Siebold.	Mr. and Mrs. Emil Rehders.
M. and Madame Frere.	M. and Madame F. Hincelot.
M. and Mrs. Carl Bock.	M. and Mrs. G. Galles.
M. G. Dubail.	Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Jackson.
Dr. O. Stuebel.	Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hewett.
Mr. and Mrs. G. Jamieson.	Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Drummond.
Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Bullock.	Mr. J. P. McEuen.
M. and Madame Riva.	Dr. Henderson.
Mr. and Mrs. Korff.	Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Morrison.
M. and Madame Bottu.	Mr. and Mrs. J. Henningsson.
Mr. and Mrs. H. de Miarta.	Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Tsai Taotai.
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Jernigan.	Marquis Tseng.
Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hippley.	Sung Chi Tang.
Mr. H. Kopsch.	Cheng King Chi.
Mr. and Mrs. A. P. MacEwen.	Wookeemay.
Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bois.	Liu Tsi Tseng.
M. and Madame O. Brunat.	Hwang Chen Hsien.
Mr. P. Arnhold.	Cheng Han sen.
Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Scott.	Lo Cheng Yee.
Mr. J. Orion.	
Mr. H. M. Bevis.	

SUPREME COURT.

27th June.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT—THE HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

LING SUI v. INSPECTOR STAUNTON.

This was an appeal by Ling Sui against the finding of the Magistrate in a case in which Inspector Staunton prosecuted.

Mr. Robinson appeared for the appellant, and the Acting Attorney-General (Hon. A. G. Wise) represented the respondent.

Mr. Robinson said the charge against the appellant was brought under Ordinance 11 of 1890, section 7, which ran as follows—"Any person who brings, leads, takes, decoys, or entices into the colony for the purpose of prostitution any woman or girl knowing that such woman or girl has been sold, pledged, let out to hire, or purchased, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and on conviction thereof shall be liable to the punishment hereinafter provided." So far as the facts in the depositions went the charge was practically this—that the woman brought into the colony for the purpose of prostitution a girl, knowing that the girl had been sold. At the Police Court the only witnesses called to give evidence upon the charge were the girl

herself and Inspector Staunton, and for the defence a witness was called to prove the respectability of the defendant. The questions involved, counsel submitted, was whether the mere possession of a document setting forth the sale of the girl with powers to re-sell as a prostitute—such document having been made in China—was evidence of intention to sell the girl within the colony.

The Acting Chief Justice—The matter is reduced within a very small compass, because I see in the depositions there is an admission on your part that the woman had purchased the girl according to the terms of the document, which said she was purchased for the purpose of prostitution in Hongkong.

Mr. Robinson—No, no; in Honan, China.

The Acting Chief Justice—I will read you the document, which is admitted to be the document under which the girl was purchased.

Mr. Robinson—The possession of that document is not evidence of any intent to act under it.

The Acting Chief Justice—I will read the document.

Mr. Robinson—The document confers the power to re-sell and bring up the girl as a prostitute; that is all. The words can add nothing more than that.

The Acting Chief Justice—This is the document—"The makers of this deed for the absolute sale of a girl for the purpose of prostitution are the Tang family, who had a girl for prostitution surnamed . . . and named A Mui, aged 16. She was born at the Nai Watch on the 6th day of the 10th moon Kang Shon year. They wished to sell her to anyone, no matter whether he lived near her or at a distance, or whether he lived on land or afloat. The price demanded was \$270. Through go-between Li Shi, the girl was taken to . . . who examined her and found her all right, and agreed to pay the amount demanded, viz., \$270, at the rate of .71 the dollar. Matters were explained in the presence of three parties, and the two parties mutually agreed to the bargain. A deed was drawn up for the transaction this day in the presence of the go-between, and both the girl and the deed and the full price were handed over and all matters concluded. This prostitute has never been betrothed to any family.

Mr. Robinson—I must point out that this reading was not put in evidence at the Magistracy.

The Acting Chief Justice—This is a translation of the original.

Mr. Robinson—The word translated "prostitute" is translated "girl" in my copy.

The Acting Chief Justice—I have a copy here by the Court interpreter, and it is from the original.

Mr. Robinson—My copy was the one that was given in evidence at the Magistracy.

The Acting Attorney-General—I think that is so, my lord. Your translation you have was made in this Court, and I have no copy of the other one. Mr. Robinson has the translation given by the Court interpreter.

The Acting Chief Justice—I will take the other translation if you think proper. This translation put in my hands was made by the Court interpreter.

Mr. Robinson—This was made by the Police Court interpreter.

The Acting Chief Justice—I have no objection to reading what was read at the Magistracy. So far it does not materially differ except in regard to that one word.

Mr. Robinson—That is not so, my lord.

The Acting Chief Justice—I intend reading from your copy. Instead of the word "prostitute" I will read the word "girl."

His Lordship then proceeded—"This girl is not yet engaged to be married. Whenever the sale is complete, the girl is to go away for ever. No enquiries will ever be made after her nor will any one come to see her or visit her. The purchaser has a right to have the girl taught to play music and taught singing in order that she might be put on the river as a prostitute, and she will dress herself up to receive visitors as her calling and to thus spend her life. There shall be nothing said to the contrary. The sale was an open sale and the purchase was an open purchase; there was no implication in any kidnapping nor was there any compulsory act. It was neither a set off against debts nor a matter of the like

nature. She is not a malformed girl, she is free from leprosy, and has not suffered from fits, and if she is found to be suffering from any of these diseases the vendor is willing to return all the money to the purchaser. Should any death or accidents befall her each party will abide by the will of Heaven. Should any question arise in future as to where the girl was got from that will be the business of the vendor and the go-between to settle such question. Last words of mouth should not be evidence; this deed for the absolute sale of the girl for the purposes of prostitution is made to be handed over and kept as proof. The Tang family received \$270 in full at 71 the dollar as purchase money for the girl sold for the purpose of prostitution. Nothing is left owing." Then appears the finger mark of the first party, Li Shi, and of the second party, A Nui, prostitute, and also the finger mark of Chan Chew. The date and other hand writing follow. This document, continued his Lordship, simplifies the matter. The girl was bought by the defendant in China under a form which was suitable for the purpose of prostitution.

Mr. Robinson—No, my lord.

The Acting Chief Justice—She is described as a prostitute; read the last sentence—"the Tang family received \$270 for the girl sold for prostitution."

Mr. Robinson—There is nothing to show that this girl is not a virgin, and she can hardly be described as a prostitute if she is a virgin.

The Acting Chief Justice—We have no evidence as whether she is a virgin or not. That possibly might make her all the more valuable. The deed said she might be taught those things which might make her attractive as a prostitute, and it is quite clear to my mind that she was bought under that deed, and a large price—\$270—given for her, and rights were conferred upon the purchaser to use her as a prostitute. Now it is admitted by you that she was brought by this purchaser into the colony, and the section of the Act says that "any person who brings into the colony for the purpose of prostitution, any girl knowing that such girl has been sold," &c.

Mr. Robinson—All that is admitted except "for the purposes of prostitution."

The Acting Chief Justice—We have to use our common sense to see why a person is brought under that form of deed, which differs from the ordinary purchase deed.

Mr. Robinson—This is an appeal to the intelligence and common sense of the Court to draw a distinction, and not to work an injustice by applying a rule unless the general circumstances of the cases are considered. Ordinarily anybody reading a document of that kind would jump absolutely illogically to the conclusion that the girl was sold for the purpose of prostitution. As a matter of simple logic, my lord, does the power conferred to do a thing imply the intention of the donee of that power to do it?

The Acting Chief Justice—No, but it is quite common sense that the person who purchased the girl with those expressed powers intended to make use of those powers.

Mr. Robinson said the custom contained in the document was absolutely legal in China. If there were any such intention to use the power, unless that power were used in Hongkong, there would be no illegality, because the person would have the right to sell the girl in China, and she would be guilty of no offence whatever if she used that power. But here she would be guilty.

The Acting Chief Justice—If you pay a long price to get that power, is it not a fair and logical conclusion that you intend to use that power?

Mr. Robinson denied that. Where was the proof that a long price had been paid? But assuming that the price was a big one, it did not necessarily follow that the purchaser intended to use the powers. She might have been actuated by pure acts of benevolence. It was well known in China that persons rescued girls by buying them at an auction, and employed them as maid servants.

The Acting Chief Justice said there were two forms of conveyance, and under one of them the purchaser got absolute rights over the girl, and the rights of turning her into a prostitute.

Mr. Robinson submitted that if this were a sale by a father or mother the conferring of these rights would be exceptional; but the sale was by a stranger. The girl had no father or

mother, and she said she had been well treated by her former master. She was informed at the time of the purchase that she was bought to be the adopted daughter, in other words, a maid servant of the defendant. Counsel then criticised the action of the police and said that the evidence had been flimsily and improperly got up. Inspector Staunton, instead of deputing a detective to watch the house, had entered it without a warrant or authority from the Magistrate, and had obtained the document from the woman and the evidence of the girl. If the woman had not been improperly questioned by the Inspector there was nothing in the document to show the slightest connection between it and the girl. The only evidence against the woman was that she was in possession of this document giving her power to sell the girl as a prostitute. In order to convict the woman it must be proved that she brought the girl into the colony for the purpose of prostitution. The police had not produced one tittle of evidence of intent outside the document. They had treated it as conclusive evidence by a vulgar error of judgment. There was no evidence that anyone went to look at the girl, and nothing to show that the girl was anything more than a domestic servant to look after defendant's little boy. Counsel assumed the Court was aware of the domestic customs of the Chinese. When this colony was taken over the domestic customs of the Chinese would be, it was stated, protected so far as was consistent with English law. There was nothing in the laws of the colony to forbid this species of domestic servant. The only thing was that if any servant chose at any time not to be a servant the master or mistress had no power to deny her that right.

The Acting Chief Justice—I think it is pretty well known that wherever the British flag flies there are no slaves—customs or no customs.

Mr. Robinson again drew attention to the action of Inspector Staunton.

The Acting Chief Justice said the Inspector had a perfect right to do what he had done. If he had a warrant he could not ask questions, but in making inquiries about suspicious cases he could ask what questions he liked.

Mr. Robinson, continuing, said it was almost a universal practice in China to purchase girls for the purpose of domestic service, and amongst respectable people it was the recognised duty of the master or mistress to marry the girls off if they behaved properly. The girl showed no unwillingness to be with the defendant, against whom nothing could be proved. Counsel submitted that the circumstances were compatible with innocence, and he asked his Lordship to quash the conviction.

The Acting Chief Justice—I do not think I need call upon you, Mr. Attorney-General.

The Acting Attorney-General said he simply wished to say that the counsel for the defence had a perfect right to put the woman into the box at the Police Court if he had thought fit.

Mr. Robinson said he had overlooked the section giving him that power, but he would be very glad to have the woman examined now.

The Acting Attorney-General asked his Lordship to say that the police had acted properly in this case.

The Acting Chief Justice said there was no ground whatever for complaint against the police.

The Acting Chief Justice—I am quite prepared to give judgment at once. By section 7 of Ordinance 11 of 1890 it is provided that any person who brings into the colony for the purpose of prostitution any girl, knowing that that girl has been sold, becomes guilty of misdemeanour. In the present case it is proved and not denied—in point of fact it has been admitted and not in any way contradicted—that this girl was brought into the colony by the defendant, who knew she had been sold. In point of fact it is proved that the woman who brought the girl into the colony bought her herself, and in this particular instance we have the bill of sale under which the girl referred to was bought. The only fact in dispute is the question of the intention for which this girl was brought into the colony. On the part of the accused it is stated that the girl was bought for the purpose of being an amah for her child, and not for the purpose of prostitution. But the defendant, though she had a perfect right to do so, did not go into the box and swear that.

Mr. Robinson—I have already said that was my fault.

The Acting Chief Justice—I cannot help that. She did not give any evidence as to her intentions at all, and confined herself to the statements made by her counsel that she intended to have this girl as an amah for her child, and she intended to marry her to somebody when she was 20 years of age. As to that statement there is no evidence. We have it in evidence that there are two kinds of purchases of domestic servants in China, and the evidence of the defendant's own witness who was called as to character was that he had bought girls for domestic service, and in answer to the Court he said, "In my contracts I have not had it said that they were to be used as prostitutes, but there is a provision that if they turn out good I can sell them again." Now we have it in evidence that there is another form which enables the purchaser to buy a prostitute, but a larger price has to be paid for a prostitute than for a girl who is simply for domestic service. Well, then, we come to look at the document itself. There are one or two passages in the bill of sale which make it very clear what the purposes of the buyer and what the purposes of the seller were. To begin with. In the form used before the Magistrate the seller wished to sell this girl, no matter to whom, whether far or near, whether on land or water, at the price of \$270, and the go-between is Li Shi. Then further down in the bill of sale it says the purchaser has the right to have the girl taught singing in order that she might be put on the river to be a prostitute; that is, to receive visitors. Should any mishap befall the girl each party would have to submit to the will of Heaven; and it winds up by saying that bearing words of mouth may be no proof. This bill of sale is made out as proof that Tang-chang received \$270. Now it being in evidence that this form for the purchase of a girl gives the purchaser the full rights to bring up a person for prostitution, and it is a more expensive form of purchasing than the purchasing for domestic purposes, it is a perfectly logical conclusion and deduction that the Chinese woman did not adopt the more expensive form in obtaining prostitution rights unless she intended to use those rights. It is therefore a question of intention. If the bill found with the woman had been a bill for domestic service the woman's intention that the girl was to be used as an amah would have been in the document. Therefore we have nothing to contradict the strong supposition that is conveyed by the document itself. The Magistrate, having investigated the case carefully, came to the conclusion that to his satisfaction the intent to use the girl for prostitution was made out. It appears to have been made out from the terms of the deed, and the fact that this was a deed for the sale of this particular girl. The question for the Court is, was the Magistrate wrong? I am not prepared to say that he was wrong. It will be a very risky thing indeed for women to be found in possession of girls, being in possession at the same time of the purchase deed expressly stipulating that the woman was able to bring up the girl as a prostitute. There would be a strong presumption in such a case that the woman intended to avail herself of the rights for which she had paid. It has been stated by Mr. Robinson that the sale of the girl for a prostitute in this form is a very usual transaction in China, and a perfectly legal one. I can only say that we have no evidence of an expert in Chinese law. I say nothing about the legality or otherwise of the transaction in China. I can only say that I regard it as extremely bad; it is very vicious and immoral and contrary to the good of any people. And I do say that as soon as any Chinese come into Hongkong they must obey the English law that prevails here, and that law does not allow the sale and the purchase of girls, and if they are bought and sold in China, and that transaction is recognised elsewhere, the moment they touch British soil—it does not matter how many dollars have been paid for them—they are as free as air in theory, and if they apply to the proper authorities, and complain at the Magistracy that they are detained against their will, they will find that the British law is strong enough to punish those who detain them against their will in this colony. The appeal is dismissed with costs.

FENWICK AND CO. V. BASA.

In this case Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., made an *ex parte* application for leave to appeal from the

decision of the Acting Puisse Judge, who gave a verdict for the plaintiffs.

Mr. Francis, who was instructed by Mr. Gedge, said the action was one in which plaintiffs sued the defendant for \$240, the price of a marine boiler, sold and delivered. The defendant denied contracting with the plaintiffs for the boiler; he did not enter into an agreement, verbal or otherwise, for the purchase of the boiler. Defendant denied that he did anything by which he could be bound, either as principal or as agent. The facts of the case were that Senor Lechando, of Manila, wrote to the plaintiffs at the end of 1894 respecting the price of a boiler, the dimensions of which were given. The defendants replied and eventually Lechando wrote to Basa and told him to get the boiler for him, and also to get a reduction in the price, if possible. Basa saw the plaintiffs and he was told that they could not agree to a reduction, but offered him 20 per cent. commission on the transaction. Thereupon Basa gave instructions for the boiler to be made and shipped. The boiler was sent, but Lechando refused to take it. The defendant's contention was that what he did was on behalf of Lechando, and that, as there was no contract between Basa and the plaintiffs, Basa could not be made liable.

The Acting Chief Justice pointed out that the plaintiffs wrote to Lechando stating they would require half the money down with the order and half on delivery. The plaintiffs did not persist in this demand, but was it not likely they would have persisted if they had not thought that Basa, who had had transactions with them before, would hold himself liable for the amount?

Mr. Francis said it was not a question of trusting; it was a question whether there was a contract made. The defendant simply completed, as agent, the contract between plaintiffs and Lechando; he was the mere medium of communication. What was in Mr. Fenwick's mind had nothing to do with the question.

The Acting Chief Justice—Was there not a conflict of evidence as to whether the terms were modified in reference to the size of the boiler?

Mr. Francis said there was an alteration in dimensions as sent by Lechando.

The Acting Chief Justice—Basa said "I accept that boiler."

Mr. Francis—He said that on behalf of Lechando.

The Acting Chief Justice.—It cannot be contended that Lechando gave an order for a boiler of these dimensions.

Mr. Francis—That is another point altogether.

The Acting Chief Justice—If the plaintiffs sued Lechando he would say the only boiler he ordered was of such and such a size. Then plaintiffs would say, "Then we must go to Basa, who said he would have that particular boiler." That was only common sense. The boiler Basa bought was different from the one ordered by Lechando.

Mr. Francis—It does happen occasionally that people, through their own carelessness, have no remedy against anyone. I say that whatever Basa accepted he accepted on account of Lechando, and not on his own account.

The Acting Chief Justice—If I am negotiating—this is what strikes me as common sense—if I am negotiating with a foreign merchant for the sale of a boiler, and a man with whom I had had business as commission agent on previous occasions came to me and practically said "I know you have had negotiations with a gentleman in Manila for a boiler of a given size" and I say the size I have got is not the size he wants, and the agent says "Never mind, you send that boiler." The boiler is sent accordingly, but some days afterwards it turns out that the Manila merchant will not accept the boiler as it is not the size he ordered. Is it then for the agent to say "I never made the contract, and consequently I am not liable?" It is so absurd on the face of it that I cannot see the necessity for arguing the point. It is quite clear that Lechando is not liable.

Mr. Francis—I think your Lordship is right.

The Acting Chief Justice—Then you do not proceed further?

Mr. Francis—No, my lord.

The Acting Chief Justice—The application is dismissed.

26th June.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

TUNG LOONG v. REUTER, BROCKELMANN & CO.

An action was brought by Tung Loong against Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. to recover \$560.41, money paid by plaintiff to defendants in respect of 100 cases of matches; in the alternative plaintiff claimed delivery of the cases.

Mr. H. L. Dennys appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hastings (from Mr. Deacon's office) represented the defendants.

Mr. Dennys said that on 21st August, 1894, plaintiff, through a broker, gave an order to the defendants for 100 cases of matches at \$15.50 a case, and on 28th August he gave an order for an additional 500 cases. The plaintiff had paid to the defendants \$9,597.62 for the whole of the 600 cases, but he had received only 564 cases, which were made up as follows—81 cases out of the 100 at \$15.50, and 483 cases at \$16.25. The value of the 564 cases, allowing for discount and other calculations, was \$9,037.21, which amount, when deducted from \$9,597.62, left the sum claimed as due to the plaintiff.

Plaintiff was giving his evidence, when Mr. Hastings interposed, and said the point of issue was this—that in addition to the two contracts relating to 600 cases, the plaintiff entered into another contract for the purchase of an additional 100 cases. This contract he entered into in the name of Wah King. The defendants sold the matches to the plaintiff, and it was of course no concern of theirs what name he gave. Of the 100 cases, in respect of which the dispute was, the plaintiff had taken delivery of 59. The remaining 41, which were undelivered, were sold by auction, and the proceeds, \$245.50, were charged to the plaintiff. Of the 500 cases 95 were still in defendants' godowns, and the plaintiff could have them whenever he liked. The defendants further stated that they had in their hands \$738.90 belonging to plaintiff, and the amount was made up as follows:—The plaintiff deposited \$500 with defendants as security, and against this they charged plaintiff \$245.50, loss on the first contract. The 95 cases which he had not taken were worth \$1,543.75, and therefore if the defendants credited plaintiff with \$493.40, the amount left after deducting the loss on the first contract from money in hand, there was a balance of \$1,050.35 for plaintiff to pay on delivery of the 95 cases, which were still in the godowns, and which would be delivered on payment of the amount.

Mr. Dennys said the plaintiff denied entering into a contract for the supply of the second 100 cases. He had nothing to do with Wah King, which was an altogether different firm from his. Plaintiff ordered 600 cases only.

Witnesses on both sides were called, but the case was not concluded when the Court rose; and the hearing will be resumed on Monday.

2nd July.

A further adjournment until Friday was made of the case in which Tung Loong sues Messrs. Reuter, Brockelmann and Co. for \$560.41, money paid by plaintiff to defendants in respect of 100 cases of matches.

WHAT ARE REASONABLE PRECAUTIONS?

INTERESTING OPIUM CASE.

At the Police Court on Monday, before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, the case was re-opened in which Captain Lunt, of the steamer *Fushun*, was summoned for allowing his ship to be used to convey prepared opium, in excess of 50 taels, without taking reasonable precautions to prevent it.

When the case was before the Court on the last occasion, it was proved that two passengers were arrested on board the *Fushun* with 82 taels of prepared opium and 9 taels of crude opium in their possession, but the summons was dismissed by the Magistrate, who did not call upon the defendant for any defence, on the ground that the evidence for the prosecution was insufficient. Mr. Dennys, who appeared for the prosecution, at a later stage gave notice of appeal, because the defence was not called upon, and the Magistrate, in order that the defendant should not be saddled with the trouble

of an appeal, decided to re-open the case and call upon the defence.

Mr. Dennys again appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Ellis for the defence.

The Magistrate at once called upon Mr. Ellis for his defence.

Mr. Ellis said the section under which the defendant was charged was 33 of Ordinance 21 of 1891, which stated that an amount of 50 taels of opium found on board a ship of 60 tons burden and upwards shall be evidence of the unlawful use of any such ship. He admitted both these facts, but there was a proviso—"unless it be proved to the satisfaction of the Magistrate that every reasonable precaution had been taken to prevent the unlawful use of any such ship, and that none of the officers, or servants, or any of the crew of such ship were implicated therein." There was nothing in the Ordinance which said of what a "reasonable precaution" is to consist, and therefore it was left to the persons concerned to use their own judgment of what was a reasonable precaution. He submitted that every reasonable precaution had been taken on the ship to prevent opium being illegally conveyed. In every cabin in the ship a printed notice in Chinese had been posted up warning passengers against bringing opium into the colony. In addition notices had been placed at the entrance to the tween decks and in the hatches. Altogether there were between sixty and seventy notices posted in various parts of the ship. The passengers were also warned by the com-pradore in case any of them could not read the notice. Unless it were to search all the boxes and luggage of every passenger, counsel submitted that his clients could not possibly take further precautions than they had. Such a course as searching the luggage, however, would far exceed a "reasonable precaution." Moreover, there was the serious doubt whether any of the officers had power to search the passengers' luggage.

Evidence in support of this statement was given, and the com-pradore said that he always informed the passengers, before the harbour was reached, that it was necessary for them to throw overboard any opium they had in their possession.

The Magistrate again dismissed the summons. Mr. Ellis asked that the prosecution be punished for bringing a vexatious charge against the defendant.

The application was disallowed.

We understand that the decision will be appealed against.

THE REIGN OF THE RIFLE ROUGH.

ASSAULTING A PATROL SERGEANT.

Four privates in the Rifle Brigade, named John Raynold, H. W. Denton, George Ward, and D. W. Brawas, were charged at the Police Court on Monday, before the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, with fighting and creating a disturbance in Cochrane Street, at midnight on Saturday. The prisoners, with other soldiers, were fighting and creating a great disturbance in Cochrane Street and a Chinese constable endeavoured to separate them. They would not desist, and George Young, sergeant in the Rifle Brigade, who was on patrol duty, then endeavoured to bring about peace, but he was set upon and attacked by the first, third, and fourth prisoners. They were all drunk, and when assistance arrived they were looked up. Captain Stewart, of the Rifle Brigade, asked for those prisoners who attacked the patrol sergeant to be handed over to the military authorities, as that was a very serious offence. Raynold, Ward, and Brawas were thereupon ordered into the custody of the military guard, and Benton was discharged.

We (*Times of Ceylon*) stated a few days ago that two consignments of human hair, one from Calcutta and the other from Hongkong, had been detained at the Customs pending inspection and report by the Sanitary officer. We now learn that the Sanitary officer has declined to pass them, in view of the recent prevalence of small-pox in Calcutta, and of the existence of other infectious diseases in Hongkong. The importers have been informed of the embargo laid upon their consignments by the Sanitary officer, and it remains to be seen what is to be done with the importation.

INCENDIARISM EXTRAORDINARY AT YAUMATI.

A DEADLY ACT OF REVENGE.

The police are investigating a remarkable case of incendiarism in the village of Ho-ma-tin, near Yaumati. Shortly after midnight on Monday morning a fire broke out on the roof and also in the basement of a match-shed, and a large number of villagers turned out and worked with such a will that both fires were put out before very much damage had been done. Police Sergeant Witchell was amongst those attracted to the fire, and he investigated its origin, and made some extraordinary discoveries. It seems that some time ago the woman who, with her daughter, lives in the match-shed became enamoured of one of her neighbours, and the man and woman decided to live together. The warmth of the attachment did not last long, for another eligible gentleman put in an appearance, and the first lover was discarded and the more recent arrival took his place. Wooer No. 1 became very jealous, and he decided upon a very terrible revenge. It is said that in his scheme he was assisted by several friends, and it consisted of burning the three occupants of the shed in their beds. He obtained two two-gallon tins full of kerosene, some gunpowder, a slow match, and a fuse. One tin, with powder surrounding it, and the match, was placed on the roof; the other, in a similar manner, but with the fuse, was placed in the shed. Just after twelve o'clock the fuse and match set fire to the powder, but fortunately the occupants knew of the fire before it had got anything like a good hold of the premises, and they at once raised an alarm. One of the helpers courageously picked up the tin of kerosene which was on the roof, and hurled it to the floor. He was so seriously burnt about the head and body that he had to be taken to the Government Civil Hospital, where he lies in a critical condition. The other tin was removed before its contents had ignited. The man who is supposed to have originated this ghastly deed was arrested, as also was another man. The two were taken before Hon. H. E. Wodehouse at the Police Court on Monday and remanded.

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in the Green Island Cement Co., Limited, was held on the 29th June, at Messrs. Shewan and Co.'s offices, Praya Central. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there was also present Messrs J. Orange, Lee Sing, Poon Pong (directors), C. H. Grace, R. K. Leigh, G. M. Bain, and F. J. V. Jorge (Secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, this is simply a formal meeting called for the purpose of acquiring the power to reduce our capital in any manner permitted by law, and at such times as we may think best. I believe I am quite safe in saying that the necessity for writing off a large portion of our capital is apparent to and admitted by all shareholders in the Company, and your Directors and Managers have for some time past been considering the best and quickest way of doing this, and at the same time of raising additional funds for working capital, the Company as you know being at present entirely dependent upon loans from the General Managers for the money required for its business. No scheme of reorganisation has yet been definitely decided upon, but we hope before long to be able to submit a suitable one to you; and in the meanwhile we are not losing any time, as before any steps can be taken to reduce our capital we must first have the power, which we have not at present by our Articles of Association. To obtain such power we have called you together to-day for that purpose and I now beg to move the following resolution:—"That the words 'and the Company may at any time by special resolution reduce its capital in any manner permitted by law' be added at the end of Article No. 19 of the Articles of Association of this Company."

Mr. LEIGH seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The resolution just passed will require to be confirmed at a subsequent meeting to be held after fourteen days from now, and due notice of same will be given to you by

advertisement. If any shareholder has any questions to ask, I shall be pleased to answer them.

There being no questions, the meeting was brought to a close, the CHAIRMAN thanking shareholders for attending.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises the receipt of the following report for May from Mr. Blamey, the manager at the mine:—

August Shaft 200 feet level.—Good progress has again been made in driving the No. 2 cross cut; 65 feet having been driven, making its total length from the main North crosscut 353 feet. A few days ago we came up to a course of broken reef matter showing specks of free gold, but as it is lying at a very low angle (about 25°) and is enclosed in very broken country rock, I cannot own it as Gillies' reef. We shall continue driving East as hitherto, until we are sure that the course of that reef has been reached, when, if nothing of value is found, drives will be opened upon the course of the ore already passed through.

Intermediate 140 feet level.—There is no change to report here, the stopes, etc., still giving the usual quantities of low grade ore. The drive going out to the new shaft has reached its destination and is ready for the shaft when it comes down.

110 ft. level.—The new shaft having been repaired from the surface to this level, a contract has been let to continue it down to the intermediate.

Upper stopes.—We continue to do a little in these, and get a small quantity of ore for the mill.

Early in the month we found a small leader in the north side of these stopes, which has given us a few tons of very fair ore indeed, but as its course has been well prospected below the soft level, it cannot be persistent in depth.

Gillies' Reef, Mill Gully Tunnel.—The north drive here has been connected with the workings at the Kladi Tunnel and is now being continued still farther north. The reef, although not strong, has given some fair grade ore for the mill. A winze is being sunk below the bottom of this tunnel on the first chute of ore found and fairly good ore is being got. But I notice that the black dyke seen in driving is met with in sinking also, and is still interfering with the reef; in fact, it seems to cut it off altogether. What is really going to happen, however, can only be proved by further development.

Kladi Tunnel.—The work we were carrying on here is now being done by means of the Mill Gully and in future will be dealt with when reporting on that point.

Total drive for the month.....591' 3"
Ore mined.....781 tons.
made up at follows:—

Upper Stopes	80 tons	10 cwt.
August Shaft	526 "	" "
Mill Gully	140 "	" "
New Leader	34 "	10 "

Milling.—This was carried on during 27 days, crushing 1,191 tons 10 cwt. yielding 427 oz. 3 dwts. 7 grs. of melted gold; viz., 781 tons 10 cwt. Ore from the mine for 382 oz. 3 dwt. 7 gr. and 410 tons headings for 45 oz.

Cyanide Works.—This was sufficiently advanced to allow of operations being commenced on the 18th inst. and is now working continuously. It is running on the heap of old tailings, and the results will be watched with interest. I may tell you that the arrangements for filling and emptying the vats are very complete, the total cost of both operations not exceeding 4d. per ton.

General.—All work coming under this head continues to receive due attention. About 2,459 feet of new roads have been made into the jungle for bringing our firewood and mine timber and the main water race has been widened and repaired where necessary.

Labour.—The supply of this is better, many new hands having come in during the month.

Health.—This, I regret to say, is not very good, a kind of influenza and bronchitis having broken out among both Europeans and natives.

Rainfall.—During the month the rainfall was 8 9/16 inches.

RAUB AUSTRALIAN GOLD MINING COMPANY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited, was held in the registered office, Brisbane, on the 23rd May, when about forty shareholders were represented. Mr. De Burgh Persse occupied the chair.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said he regretted that a year should have passed without any dividend becoming available. The board were the more disappointed that this should be the case as they had anticipated, and were led to anticipate, much better results from the crushings than have been actually obtained. During the twelve months ending the 28th February last, 6,459 tons of stone have been treated for a return of 3,413 oz. of gold, or an average of 10dwt. 14 gr. to the ton. The previous six months had given a return of nearly 16dwt. to the ton, so that had the average been maintained, we should have received about £6,000 more to the credit of profit and loss. As it is, over £12,000 worth of gold has been won; sufficient not only to pay all expenses, but to provide additional machinery required, and to defray permanent works. These Mr. Bibby estimates in his pay sheets at about £2,000. In connection with these same permanent works the question has been raised whether the paid-up shareholders are being treated quite fairly. Development has proved the lodes on the company's property to be of a permanent character, and workable at a profit; even though the grade of ore be low. Moreover, stone for the battery can now be obtained in more than sufficient quantities to keep the twenty stampers constantly employed, but the system of carting the ore by bullock-drays, which has hitherto obtained, has proved to be inefficient, and, indeed, came perilously near a breakdown during the past wet season. The two boards have, therefore, sanctioned the construction of a light railway to connect the mines with the battery at an estimated cost of £3,200, and though it is believed the money to carry out this contract can be won from the mines, the outlay is one more properly chargeable to capital. The directors have requested that the matter may be left in abeyance for the present, but should necessity for more works of this nature arise, the holders of contributing shares must expect to see the holders of fully-paid shares receive a dividend while they themselves do not. I am satisfied the management is as economical as circumstances will permit. I now move the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.

The motion was seconded and unanimously agreed to.

It was decided to reduce the number of directors from five or four, and Messrs. De Burgh Persse, R. Philip, G. Frederick Scott, and James Forsyth were re-elected directors. Messrs. W. A. Strong and T. A. Bond were also re-elected auditors. The directors' fees for the ensuing year were reduced from £300 to £200. The auditors' remuneration was fixed at 5 guineas each.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bibby, the manager of the field, and his staff.

The meeting then terminated.

RAUB.

The Mining Manager's report for four weeks ending 13th June, 1895, runs as follows:—

Raub Hole Section.—The No. 2 shaft is now down 56ft. below the 120 feet level, 16 feet having been sunk and 20 feet timbered during the month. If anything the ground is a little harder and the water heavier. The latter is giving us a good deal of trouble and the pump has all it can do to keep it out. There is no change to report in the stopes, which are turning out the usual amount of crushing stuff.

Bukit Koman.—The work of extending the stopes on the main lode is being steadily pushed on. The lode continues as large as ever and prospects continue about the same. The No. 1 south air shaft has been broken through into the stopes, thoroughly ventilating this part of the mines and giving us two more faces to open out on. As we continue the stopes south they are opening out remarkably well; in the level we have only a small lode from 4 to 5 inches thick, while 20 feet above the lode is from 10 to 15 feet wide, of average grade ore. The stopes going north also improve as we rise on

them, the lode being about 18 feet wide. The hanging wall of the lode is very bad in this end and the lode has to be taken out on sets and the ground kept filled up close to the face to prevent it running. All the stopes and workings are in first class order.

Engine Shaft.—This is now down 30 feet below the 146 feet level. 15 feet have been sunk and 18 feet timbered during the month. We lost seven days waiting for fittings for the pump, as we had to use some of the fittings in the Raub Hole shaft that were intended for here. There is no change in the ground, but the water is very heavy, owing to the wet weather we are getting.

Western Lode.—There is no change to report in these workings. Stopping is going on as usual and there is no change in the prospects. The wet weather is causing a little trouble in the stopes and making them dirty.

Battery.—Thirty-six hours were lost during the month, owing to our not being able to cart sufficient ore to keep the mill going full time. A rough clean up took place on the 3rd inst. The mill worked 22½ days crushing 760 tons of ore for a yield of 1,190 oz. amalgam. Crushing was resumed again on the morning of the 4th inst., having lost 12 hours putting in new brass liner in Battery pump. Since starting the mill has been kept at work full time.

Railway.—Good progress is being made with this work, considering the wet weather we are having, and I hope to have all the earthwork completed as far as Bukit Koman by the end of this month, but the work is being greatly retarded for want of trucks and rails. There are now about 160 coolies all told employed on the work.

During the earlier part of the month there was a good deal of sickness in the camp, but there is much less now. The weather still keeps very hot, with heavy thunderstorms almost daily.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Captain J. M. S. Stewart, Rifle Brigade, handed in the best of a somewhat indifferent lot of scores in the above competition for the month of July, and wins the Cup and Sweepstakes with a net score of 86, closely followed by Captain O. P. Marshall with 87. There is nothing to account for the unusually high scoring, except in the case of those players who played off on the first day and whose rounds were sadly interrupted by rain squalls. On the third day the conditions for golf were almost perfect and low scores might reasonably have been expected. Results:—

CUP.

Captain J. M. S. Stewart, R.B.	100	14	86
Captain O. P. Marshall	108	21	87
Mr. Gershom Stewart	94	6	83
Captain W. V. Eccles, R.B.	94	5	89
Mr. G. W. F. Playfair	111	21	90
Mr. C. Palmer	102	11	91
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	103	10	93
Mr. E. A. Ram	108	13	93
Lieut. W. M. Thompson, R.E.	106	10	96
Mr. J. Hastings	111	14	97
Mr. F. Maitland	216	18	98

SWEEPSTAKES.

Captain J. M. S. Stewart, R.B.	100	14	86
Captain W. V. Eccles, R.B.	94	5	89
Mr. G. W. F. Playfair	111	21	90
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	103	10	93
Mr. F. Maitland	116	18	98

On Thursday next, 4th July, a match will be played between teams representing the Services (Army and Navy) and the Civilians. One round of 18 holes will be played, commencing at 4.15 p.m. The following will represent their respective sides:—

Services.	Civilians.
Capt. W. V. Eccles, R.B. versus	Mr. Gershom Stewart
Lt. W. M. Thompson, R.E. "	Mr. H. L. Dalrymple
Lt. L. Sanderson, R.B. "	Mr. C. Palmer
Commodore Boyes, R.N. "	Mr. J. Thurnburn
Capt. A. G. Ferguson, R.B. "	Mr. E. A. Ram
Capt. J. M. S. Stewart, R.B. "	Mr. C. Hawkins
Mr. R. W. Toman, R.N. "	Mr. A. S. Anton

A Japanese press telegram dated Hakodate, June 18th, says:—The British sealing schooner *Roise Olsen*, which ran ashore off Oma-mura, Kitagori, Aomori prefecture, has become a total wreck. Upon the receipt of this information the British Consulate staff here and Customs officials hastened to the scene of disaster, and succeeded in salvaging 627 seal skins, 11 boats, and other ship gear from the wreckage. While on the way to port five boats were washed away.

SHOOTING MATCH.

A shooting match took place on Saturday between three representatives of the Willard Opera Company and three members of the Royal Artillery Sergeants' mess at the miniature 200 yards range, which resulted in a defeat of the Willard Company, who are apparently not so good at shooting as at cricket. Scores:—

ROYAL ARTILLERY.	
Sergeant-Major Severn	30
Sergeant-Major Spencer	28
Sergeant Brown	28
Total	86
WILLARD COMPANY	
Mr. Fearnley	23
Mr. Hall	19
Mr. Munro	19
Total	61

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

A METEOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR.—Some of your readers might be interested to know that about 10.15 p.m. last night, a brilliant fireball was seen traversing the air eastwards from the south. It lasted for about five seconds and presented a really beautiful sight. In appearance it resembled one of those rockets commonly burned at sea, only it was two or three times larger. It produced no noise whatever but omitted a very faint green light with a red train behind, which disappeared as soon as the fireball itself was out of sight. It crossed the air probably at a height of 30 or 40 miles and, in my estimation, with a velocity of about 30 miles per second. Hundreds of minor meteors may be seen every night, but the appearance of a fireball is a rare occurrence and very much appreciated by those who are fortunate enough to observe it.—Yours very truly,

A. E. S.

Hongkong, 27th June, 1895.

THE DHOBY HORROR IN SINGAPORE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR.—The statement you reproduced in Saturday's issue from the *Singapore Free Press* as to the conditions under which the laundry work is carried on in that colony is certainly enough to sicken the least fastidious person, and should arouse the interest of all Europeans in this colony, where the conditions are only too similar. If any lady, mother of a family, would only visit a so-called laundry in Hongkong and see the filth and squalor amid which her own and children's clothes were being "got up" she would feel that any effort could not be too great to secure some improvement in this matter. The Government have built ten laundries, clean, light, well ventilated, well supplied with water, and for these they ask, I believe, only the nominal rent of ten dollars a month. Yet seven of these laundries are still vacant, more than two years after completion. Mr. McCallum, in his recent report, I notice, puts down the obstinate opposition to the use of these buildings partly to the tacit support of employers.

If by this he means that the residents do not insist upon their clothes being washed in the public laundries, then I suppose he is more or less correct. But can the public so insist? It could only be done by concerted action, and who will take the initiative in such a movement? Surely it would be much easier for the Government to take proper steps to fill their laundries. They were erected in the interests of sanitation and the public health, and it is as much the duty of the Sanitary Board to see that the laundry work is conducted under proper conditions as to prevent the overcrowding of lodging houses. More especially is this the case when they have gone to the expense of erecting premises specially adapted for the purpose. The matter is perfectly simple. Let the Government first prohibit the washermen from polluting the streams by washing in them except by special licence and under supervision, and then exempt from payment of licence fee such as become tenants of the public laundries. This measure would very soon, I imagine, lead to a healthy demand for the empty

laundries, and it would bring the dhoby class under sanitary supervision, which is sadly needed. Yours faithfully,

R. C. WILCOX.

Hongkong, 1st July, 1895.

VICEROY AND REBEL.

Reliable information from Nanking tells us that the famous ex-President Tang of the Formosan Republic is now in that city. He was on the 24th June received in audience by the Viceroy and made a report of his daring exploits and hairbreadth escape from the Japanese at Kelung, "whence all but he had fled." He was upbraided by the Viceroy for having deserted his post, and was urged by the valiant Chang to return at once to assist Liu, the leader of the Black Flags, who has recently gained several very signal victories over the Japanese! The Viceroy is still doing all he can to encourage the rebels in Formosa, but failed to impress the ex-President with a desire to speedily return to the island. The question is, will the Japanese hold the Government of China responsible for this rebellion in Formosa, that has been encouraged and carried on at the instigation of such men as Chang Ohih-tung?—*China Gazette*.

RUMOURED RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

The rejection of the Russian guaranteed loan was, it seems, not solely due to the awakening of the Government at Peking to the risks it was running in accepting the terms offered. We commented the other day on the haste with which Mr. Hayashi hurried off to Peking and his rejection of the suggestions offered to him by their Excellencies Li and Wang that he should tarry to listen to their blandishments. Mr. Hayashi had other important matters to press, and not the least was to express the disapproval of his Government of the proposed mortgage of the Chinese revenues to a hostile power. Mr. Hayashi arrived, it will be noticed, only in the nick of time, the fate of the Empire practically resting on the refusal of China. The time fixed for the signature was Thursday, the 20th June, but on various pretexts it was delayed till the 23rd, when, on the arrival of Mr. Hayashi, he submitted the pretext of his Government. In other directions the joint influence of the three Governments has been used to push forward concessions. We have already spoken of the manner in which railway concessions in the north have been urged on behalf of the German and French Governments. We have not been averse from railways, but on the contrary have repeatedly shown how to their absence the Chinese have largely to attribute their recent disasters. Railways undertaken as private concessions and railways undertaken by a foreign Government within the territories of another State stand on a very different footing. The French, as we have pointed out, have been seeking to take advantage of recent troubles to advance their frontier into Southern China; the Chinese Government, cajoled by the offer of the loans which have been discussed on the Paris Bourse, have been listening, it seems, to the voice of the charmer. The French Government has been urging forward the construction of its own lines in Tungking, and has, it is stated on good authority, already made a convention with China, authorising it to continue these lines indefinitely into Chinese territory. It is stated that amongst the lines contemplated is one from the frontier to Wnchow in Kwangsi Province. As we have stated, there is every reason for applauding the introduction of railways, but the concession by China to another Government of the right of building a railway within her territories is not only a distinct breach of treaty engagements, but is a concession contrary to the practice of nations.—*Mercury*.

A Japanese paper says the fitting up of the armament and machinery on board the *Suma Kan*, which was launched at Yokosuka in March last, is making good progress, and the work is expected to be finished in October next. Her sister-ship, the *Akashi Kan*, will be launched at no distant date. A despatch-boat, which is being constructed at Kure, will be completed in the near future.

THE JAPANESE MONETARY SYSTEM INVESTIGATION COUNCIL.

The labours of the Monetary System Investigation Council, which was organized by Imperial Ordinance No. 113 of October, 1893, were brought to a conclusion on the 12th inst. The first point on which a decision was taken had reference to the cause of recent fluctuations in the relative values of gold and silver and the general results of those fluctuations. On this point it was agreed that the views recommended by the Special Committee be adopted. What those views are, we are not informed by any of the vernacular papers reporting the proceedings. The next point related to the effects of the recent fluctuations in exchange upon the economic condition of Japan. On this point the Council was divided into two equal sections; one section regarding the recent fluctuations in exchange as beneficial to Japan, on account of the great impetus given to the export trade of the country; while the other section argued that the impetus given to the export trade was not a blessing, but a disaster in disguise. The third and the last point demanding a decision covered extensive ground:—Whether or not there is a necessity for modifying the present monetary system of Japan in consequence of fluctuations in exchange, and if there be such necessity, what standard of money should be adopted and in what manner should the change be effected? In the course of the discussion on these topics, it was discovered that opinions were greatly divided as to the standard money suited to Japan; some advocating a gold standard, others a silver standard; others a bimetallic system; others a mixed system, in which a gold standard would be used in foreign transactions and a silver standard in domestic; while a few advocated the postponement of all action on this matter until a uniform standard should have been adopted in the principal countries of the world. Amid these multifarious views, the advocates of a bimetallic system seem to have been most numerous. The *Asahi Shimbun* says that bimetallicism had eight supporters out of the Committee of seventeen, and the eight included Messrs. Shoda and Taguchi. Gold monometallism also had powerful supporters, the number of its advocates being reckoned at six. The decision finally arrived at was that there is no necessity for the present to make any change in the monetary system of the country. The report of the Conference is to be compiled by Mr. Hayakawa, and will be submitted for the approval of the Council before presentation to the Government.—*Japan Mail*.

THE VICEROY LI ON ENGLAND'S INTEREST IN FORMOSA.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* is publishing a report of the verbal discussions during the peace negotiations at Shimonoseki, translated from the original Chinese records and officially revised. The following is an interesting extract:—

- H. E. Ito.—We are about to attack Formosa. What are the people there like?
H. E. Li.—They are emigrants from Swatow and Chang Chuan on the mainland—bold and hardy.
H. E. Ito.—There are aborigines, too.
H. E. Li.—Yes, six-tenths are savages, the rest colonists. Your Excellency said that Japan will attack Formosa. This explains your objection to the armistice. England will hardly approve of this move. You have furnished a case to point the moral of my argument about prejudice to the interests of other countries.
H. E. Ito.—England will observe neutrality.
H. E. Li.—But if not?
H. E. Ito.—China is affected—not necessarily England.
H. E. Li.—Hardly that, for you will be near the British colony of Hongkong.
H. E. Ito.—The war is confined to our countries, no others will suffer.
H. E. Li.—It is said that England is averse to another Power taking Formosa.
H. E. Ito.—If China should present Formosa to another Power the gift would be received with thanks.
H. E. Li.—Formosa has been made a province of China and cannot be ceded away. Twenty years ago when His Excellency the Japanese

Ambassador Okubo passed through Tientsin on his way to Peking to make peace, while war was going on against the savages of Formosa because they had murdered Japanese merchants, he said to me:—"China and Japan are neighbours, and this affair is like a quarrel between children—enemies for one moment and better friends than ever the next." War between our countries was imminent then, but in the councils I led in advocating peace, and said that the killing of Japanese merchants by these savages did not concern us to the extent of making it an occasion for international war.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO"]

The 27th instant was the Chinese dragon festival, the fifth day of the fifth intercalary month. The Chinese observed this festival with more warmth than usual because the dragon festival of the fifth intercalary month had not come round for about twenty years. Most of the shops of Canton were closed and the people stopped business. Many people went to see the dragon boats, which were plying along the river all day in large numbers.

On the 26th instant eleven prisoners were taken out from the Nam-hoi and Pun-u prisons for final trial. After they had been tried, they were all carried in bamboo baskets to the execution ground to be beheaded. It is said they were all notorious robbers.

A fight broke out between two villages near Tai-ping, in the district of Tungkun. Most of the people of the villages were mat-makers, so that during the few days the fight continued few mats were imported into Canton from the villages in question. General Chang sent some soldiers to the place to suppress the fight the other day.

There are three theatres in Canton which were built not long after Li Han-chang took over the seal of Viceroy of Canton. They were all licensed and they paid a certain sum to the Government for a monopoly. The one in the West Gate was abolished some months ago and the one in the South Gate was also ordered to be closed by the officers some time ago, for some trouble had occurred there, and now the only one left is the one in Honan. The Canton officers wish to bring it to an end too, for they have found out that troubles and fights often occur in the theatre.

About one hundred and forty robbers made an attack on the village of Loong Kiang, in Sun-tak district. Eighteen houses were robbed, from which more than ten thousand dollars worth of valuable things were taken. The villagers beat their gongs to give the alarm. On hearing the alarm given the lukongs went to meet the robbers, who were able to get rid of them by shooting three lukongs dead. A military officer who was in the city of Tai-leung, hearing the noise, came out with some soldiers. When they came near the robbed village, they saw the robbers coming forward. The robbers at once opened fire at the soldiers, who fired their guns in return. After a desperate resistance three robbers were taken prisoners and the rest ran away.

In spite of the strict prohibition lately issued against the opening of fan-tan gambling houses there are still some of these places open during the night-time in Canton, and in some of the villages also fan-tan gambling still goes on briskly.

HONGKONG.

Since last week rain has fallen in small quantities, but not enough to justify the authorities in giving a continuous water supply. Happily there are now no cases of plague in the colony. Several interesting cases have been heard at the Police Court and the Supreme Court, and on Friday a discussion took place at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders respecting the future of Hongkong as a ship-building port.

There were 48 in-patients treated in the Alice Memorial Hospital last month and the number of out-patient visits was 1,412. At the Netherlands Hospital the numbers were 37 and 55.

The warder at Victoria Gaol, named J. G. Thorne, who illicitly supplied a sandwich to a prisoner, was on Friday, at the Police Court, sent to gaol for six weeks with hard labour.

Friday being Coronation Day a royal salute was fired at noon from the shore battery and the men-of-war in harbour.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr. G. P. Lammert sold by auction the leasehold property at 26A, Graham Street. The price realised was \$2,375.

A large number of persons have entered their names as subscribers to the Hongkong Public Library and the institution will probably be opened in the course of a week or two.

Mr. T. F. Hough, Clerk of the Court, returned on Saturday by the steamer *Glenfruin*, quite recovered, we are glad to learn, from the effects of his serious accident.

The General Manager of the New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited, has received the following message from Mr. John Grant, Mount McDonald:—"The rains have commenced. Mill starts again next week."

On Sunday afternoon a remarkably fine turtle was captured in one of the numerous bays near Capatmoon, by some members of the City Club picnic party. The turtle was first seen swimming leisurely in a salt water lagoon near the coast, and after an exciting chase it was driven ashore, secured, and eventually brought to Hongkong.

The work at the Supreme Court has shown a remarkable increase this year. It is calculated that there have been, up to the present, over three hundred cases more than in 1893. The number of cases last year was small on account of the plague, and they are not taken into account. Improvement in trade is perhaps the cause of increased litigation.

In connection with the contribution from Hongkong which is to be forwarded to the fund being raised at home by the *Daily Telegraph* in honour of Dr. W. G. Grace, we understand that the Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Cricket Club has intimated by telegram that Hongkong is forwarding her tribute of admiration and shillings to the general fund.

Mr. J. F. Webber, formerly a solicitor in the colony, who recently returned, left again for home by the last German mail, and he omitted to pay all his debts. A creditor, Mr. John Carl Ludwig Roub, of the Praya Est Hotel, appeared in the Supreme Court on Friday and claimed \$61.75 from Webber. The money was owing for food and refreshments supplied, and, in the absence of the defendant, judgment was given for the plaintiff.

A new Company, we hear, will shortly run a line of steamers between Canton and Shanghai, via Hongkong, and calling at ports en route when sufficient inducement offers. The line is to be opened by four new steamers now building in England. The Company is to be British and the capital will be supplied by Singapore Chinese. The head office is to be at Shanghai. Premises for the Canton office have already been leased on Shameen.

We have to acknowledge receipt of a reprint in pamphlet form of the "Documentary History of the Peace Negotiations between China and Japan, March-April, 1895, with Text of the Treaty of Peace," which recently appeared in the *Peking and Tientsin Times*. We congratulate our contemporary on its enterprise or good fortune in securing these valuable papers, which we note are "officially revised." The pamphlet is in its second edition.

An interesting match took place on Tuesday afternoon between Mr. Salmon's "Q.C." and Capt. Loveland's "The Friar"—one mile over eight flights of hurdles. To an excellent start they raced neck and neck for two furlongs, when "Q.C." forged ahead and made all the running till half way up the straight, where Capt. Loveland made his effort and drew level, but "Q.C." running gamely under the whip came again after the last hurdle and won cleverly at the finish by a neck.

"It was a dream or something of the kind that made him do it." This was the reason given at the Police Court the other day by the wife of a man who met his death by falling off a window sill and then off the roof of a house in Tung Wan Lane. About a week ago he was sitting on the window sill when he fell on to the roof of an adjoining house. His wife missed him, and shouted "Are you there?" and the reply was "Yes, I'm here." Thereupon the man got up in a dazed condition, and, in endeavouring to get back again to his own house, fell to the pavement and killed himself. A verdict of accidental death was returned by the Hon. H. E. Wodehouse.

There were 1,866 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 127 were Europeans. The enquiry respecting the fire at 79, Jervois Street was closed Tuesday, 25th ult. when Hon. H. E. Wodehouse ordered the release of the premises.

Mr. H. M. Hillier, Acting Commissioner of Customs, assumed charge of the Kowloon Customs House and stations on the 25th ult. Mr. H. E. Hobson goes to Wuhu.

TIENTSIN.

22nd June.

The Japanese Minister, together with the Consul, accompanied by some thirty-five of their nationals, reached Tientsin on Saturday afternoon last, 15th instant, in the Viceroy's yacht *Kuai-ma*. The only foreigners present at the time of their landing were the U.S. Consul and the Harbour Master; the Chinese authorities being represented by a guard of some 40 soldiers under a petty officer.

The Japanese Minister and suite left here for Peking on Wednesday. We hear, on good authority, that they are likely to return soon to Tientsin. During their stay at the Aster House it was very amusing to see the way the hotel servants and coolies, also 'ricksha coolies, hung round waiting an opportunity to do them some slight service—having an eye to a "tip," of course. In Japan, during the war, this was just the reverse, the Chinese living there couldn't get assistance for "love or money."

The native gossips are instituting comparisons between the army of attendants which accompanied the Viceroy to Bakan and the small entourage of the Japanese Minister. They also comment upon the fearless way in which the latter go about their business here, as compared to the pusillanimity which kept the Viceregal party within doors during their stay in Japan, except when compelled to go out.

We note that the Japanese Military Attaché, who was so familiar a figure here before the outbreak of war, has returned with the title of colonel. This is no doubt in well-deserved recognition of the services he has rendered his country.

We learn that the gunner Li, who blew up the south-eastern forts at Weihaiwei, under the direction of Mr. Howie, and who was supposed to have perished in the explosion, is alive. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese and is now in Japan.

A Naval Court of Enquiry was held at the Chinese Admiralty last week, conducted by Mr. Detring, Mr. Lo Feng-lu, and Sheng Taotai. The sittings were held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 11th, 12th, and 13th inst., between the hours of nine and twelve. Messrs. Schnell, Howie, Kirk, Howard, and McClure were examined in the order in which they are here named, and their depositions have been handed in to the Court in writing. The object of the enquiry was to investigate certain matters relating to the capitulation of Linkungtao and the Chinese fleet. The result has been very unfavourable to one of the Europeans concerned, but no authentic report of the proceedings has reached us, and we refrain from publishing irresponsible rumours.

The new oil godown in the Extra Concession is rapidly approaching completion. This will be the largest godown as yet constructed in Tientsin, and will probably develop a trade at present only dreamt of.

We notice the river water is again heavily charged with mud—the result of recent rains—and it is to be feared that steamers will soon be having trouble on their way up and down the Peiho.

We understand that considerable improvements and extensions are being carried out at the Isabella Fisher Hospital, with funds from the trust, supplemented by local subscriptions.

The peculiar character of the trade of this port is shown by the fact that not long ago there were seventeen steamers in port and waiting outside for lighters, and not only was the bund densely packed with cargo, but the steamer agents had to provide additional accommodation above, below, and opposite the British Concession; yet within three weeks we observe from the Customs report that there were only three steamers in port, all bound down river.

We hear that efforts are being made to obtain permission from the proper quarter to make use

of the grounds of the Naval College for cricket and lawn tennis. The idea is an excellent one, as the place is very dry, of ample size for both games, well shaded with trees, and within easy reach of the settlement, being not more than 10 minutes' ride in a ricksha. It is further to be hoped that the ladies will find sufficient attraction in the accommodation which can so easily be provided for them there, to induce them to grace the ground with their presence.—*Peking and Tientsin Times.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

By the autumn it is expected that the whole Japanese army will be equipped with the Murata repeating rifles.

The *Hyogo News* says calico weaving is to be shortly commenced by five different companies in Japan. The *Chuo* expects a large export of the material to be made to China.

According to a Madrid telegram to the *Comercio* the first steamer of Messrs. Pinillos, Izquierdo & Co.'s new line will leave Barcelona on the 7th July for the Philippines.

The P. M. steamer *China* made the run from San Francisco to Yokohama on her last trip in 13 days 26 minutes, or about a quarter of an hour over her record trip of two years ago.

The steamer *Proton*, belonging to the Flensburg Steam Navigation Company, has, the *Japan Mail* says, been sold to Japanese owners at the price of £10,000. Her net measurement is 1,150 tons.

Permission has been asked, and is likely to be granted, it is said, for the Yokohama Exchange for cotton, cotton yarns, minerals, and shares, to include dealings in foreign shares in its list of permissible transactions.

The *N. C. Daily News* says orders are being sent to the arsenals throughout China to prepare for the manufacture of quick-firing guns and cordite ammunition, the Peking authorities apparently believing that the success of the Japanese was due to their possession of these instruments of war.

The Chinese transport *Shantung* arrived at Woosung on the 23rd June with 600 disbanded soldiers from Formosa. The men were immediately transferred upon arrival at Woosung into the corvette *Weiching*, which started the same afternoon for Hankow. The men were quiet and well behaved.

During a heavy storm at Bangkok the lightning struck the lorcha *Maria* amidships, and burst open about eight planks on the starboard side, leaving a big hole about 12 feet by 5. Not a soul on board, however, was injured. It appears the copper plate saved the lorcha's bottom from being damaged.

An Ordinance was promulgated at Tokyo on the 14th June containing the regulations for the Bureau dealing with the affairs of Formosa. The Bureau will be under the superintendence of the Minister President and will have full control over military and administrative affairs in Formosa and the Pescadores.

The Japanese Navy Department will, it is stated in a vernacular paper, ask the next Diet's consent to a disbursement of 120 million yen for building four more ironclads, four first class cruisers, four second class cruisers, and torpedo boats and gunboats in order to bring the total tonnage of the fleet up to 220,000 tons. We (*Hyogo News*) think our contemporary is certainly wrong in the last figure at any rate.

The Japanese Naval Department, we learn from the *Japan Mail*, recently despatched Mr. Ishiguro, a naval expert, to inspect all the naval ports and to select a site for a large new dock. As a result of his investigations he has recommended Kure, and the Naval Authorities have decided to approve Mr. Ishiguro's report. The proposed new dock will be able to receive a vessel of 15,000 tons. Mr. Ishiguro has been appointed to draw the plans for the undertaking.

It is reported from Canton, says the *N. C. Daily News*, that owing to the destruction of the best portion of the Chinese navy, the new Viceroy T'an Chung lin, in order to cut down expenses, has ordered the closing of the Whampoa Naval School and the dismissal of the scholars. The school will be re-opened when China's navy has been reconstructed and more junior officers are required, a most shortsighted policy and in keeping with the anti-foreign Hunan party of which the new Viceroy is a chief.

Some 2,500 disbanded soldiers from Formosa, temporarily interned at Woosung, were re-embarked by the Shanghai military mandarins on board of two Chinese men-of-war and sent back on the 17th inst. to their homes in Chin-kiang and Ningpo. A large number wanted to go up to the Shanghai settlements, and finding their wish opposed tried to use force, but an armed guard from the fort speedily drove them on board of a number of native cargo boats waiting to carry them to the men-of-war.

The native junks that loaded full cargoes of beans and bean oil at Newchwang for Shanghai recently are experiencing some difficulty in passing through the native Customs at the latter port, the *N. C. Daily News* says. There being no Customs at Newchwang at present, the junks paid no export duties, expecting to pay only the import dues at Shanghai, but the Customs officials declare their inability to pass cargo that does not bear the Customs' chop of the other port. The junk owners have since appealed to the Taotai.

A small Ningpo junk drifted broadside on the bows of the *Agamemnon* at Woosung, on the 25th June, and the tide being strong the junk broke in two and went down. The crew, consisting of ten men, endeavoured to save themselves by clinging to the cable of the *Agamemnon* and some of them were hauled on board by the steamer's officers and crew, while others were saved by two boats from the German man-of-war *Irene* at anchor near the *Agamemnon*. Two, however, of the junk's crew were unfortunately drowned.

While some of the native passengers were landing from the *Whampoa* at Shanghai on the 23rd June, says the *N. C. Daily News*, they were overhauled by the River Police and among others arrested was a major, who had, besides a number of shoes of syce, three bags of dollars to the number of 2,600. His luggage was seized on the suspicion that the Mexicans were a portion of Government money which had been looted in Formosa. The *Whampoa* brought up quite a lot of money which was in the hands of the passengers, though there is no suspicion that they came by it otherwise than honestly.

Francois Beyer, an employe of the M. M. Company in Yokohama, was seized with a sudden fit of insanity while in his own quarters about noon on the 20th June. He rushed from the hotel after smashing everything that came in his way and having easily flung aside several persons who attempted to intercept him. In frenzy he tore off his clothes as he ran madly onwards, and it was some time before the unfortunate man could be secured and borne to the General Hospital. Five minutes before the outbreak he seemed perfectly natural—now he is spoken of as a hopeless and dangerous lunatic.

A Kobe paper says:—According to a private communication which has reached Osaka from Port Arthur, and is printed in one of the vernacular papers, the *Chenyuen* has come out of dock, where she has been undergoing repairs, and will shortly leave for Japan, together with four other Chinese men-of-war taken at Weihaiwei. The *Chenyuen* is still painted black. All the forts at Port Arthur are being gradually demolished, but the Niryo-san fort has up to the present been left as before. For some time past there were a number of choleraic cases at Port Arthur, but the disease has now been completely stamped out. Communication between Port Arthur and Liukungtao is made daily by the Japanese man-of-war *Mayakan* and two others. All is quiet at Liukungtao and Weihaiwei.

On the 16th June there arrived at Manila a small schooner named the *Kuisiloff*, whose crew consisted of the owner, his wife, and five children, the eldest of whom is eleven and the youngest four. Two of the children are girls and three boys. The boat is 45 ft. in length, 9 ft. beam, 4 ft. depth of hold, and 15 tons displacement. The little craft left San Francisco on the 5th May, 1894, and after a run of twenty-eight days arrived at Honolulu. After a stay there of two or three days she set sail for the Marianas, which were reached in thirty-three days. She stayed at the Marianas for ten months, but the owner not being able to make a very profitable living there, he made for Manila, which was reached on the 16th June. There the *Kuisiloff* excited much interest and was visited by large numbers. The owner and captain is Frederick Sehling, who was born in Berlin, but while a child his parents emigrated and took up their residence at San Francisco.

It is rumoured, the *N. C. Daily News* says, that Mr. Bruce Hart, eldest son of the Inspector-General, is to succeed Mr. M. B. Bredon as Commissioner of Customs at Chefoo.

The mother and family of T'ang Chin-sung, the ex-President of the Formosan Republic, are now, the *N. C. Daily News* says, at Nanking, having rented the former palace of the Taiping Heavenly King in that city for their residence. It is significant that the local authorities of Nanking have placed a number of yamen runners about the premises ostensibly for their protection.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 2nd July.—Macao Congous.—The fortnight's settlements amount to 4,500 boxes at Tls. 10½-23 per picul, showing a decline of Tls. ½ to Tls. 1 per picul on values current a fortnight ago: these consist chiefly of good Medium and Fine Teas, the lower grades being remarkably scarce. Stocks are small; moderate shipments are going forward to Australia, but for Hamburg there appears to be little or nothing doing. Hoyunes have found buyers to the extent of 1,500 boxes at Tls. 11-24 per picul. Scented Capers.—Settlements are reported at 18,000 boxes principally Common and Medium, making 98,000 boxes for the season against 71,000 boxes up to the same date last year. Prices range from Tls. 9½-32 per picul and may be quoted easier, but the quality generally shows a falling off. The quantity on offer is not large. Stocks in natives hands are estimated at 40,000 boxes, whilst unshipped settlements should be well within that figure. Scented Orange Pekoes.—About 1,000 boxes of long-leaf have changed hands at various prices up to Tls. 31 per picul.

SHANGHAI, 28th June.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s circular).—News of the first sales of new Black Teas in New York was received here on the 22nd instant, and cannot be considered satisfactory for shipments generally. Black Tea.—An active business in second crop Teas is current in Hankow, especially by Russian buyers, but the transactions on this market are hardly worth recording, and call for no remarks.

Settlements reported are:—

Ningchow	(2nd crop)...	222 ½-chests at Tls. 23½ a picul.
Wenchow	...	317 " " 16 to 19 a picul.
Hohow	...	246 " " 15
Oonam	...	770 " " 13½ to 18½ "

Total...1,625 half-chests.

Stock.—4,269 half-chests.

Green Tea.—Pingsueys.—Although a fair quantity has changed hands during the interval the market has had the appearance of weakening, and prices have only been maintained by new buyers coming in occasionally. Teamen keep stocks on offer small and are not forcing sales. Valuations from the United States of new Teas may be looked for at any moment, and the course of our market will depend upon their tenour. We regret to note an admixture of "old" leaf in most of the Teas lately to hand, and Teamen are encouraged in this practice by the larger profits obtainable on mixed Teas than on those with pure infusions. Local Packed Teas.—The first packs have all been shown, and nearly all disposed of at prices which must be satisfactory to the native Teamen. No change of importance in rates has taken place during the interval. Country Teas.—Fychows and Soeyoans are due and may be expected immediately. Hysons.—First settlements of country Hysons, which were sent down in advance of the chops, were made on 26th inst. at about one tael a picul higher than last year's opening rates. The quality is fully equal to last season's early Teas. An attempt is again being tried to make Green Teas at Foochow, but judging from musters to hand it does not promise any better results than former trials.

Settlements since 14th instant are:—

Pingsuey	...	17,111 ½-ch. at Tls. 13 to 38 a picul.
Local Packed	...	3,740 " " 18 to 30½ "

Total...20,851 half-chests.

Total settlements since opening of the market to date:—

	1895-96.	1894-95.
Pingsueys	4-chests.	4-chests.
	34,684	against 35,768
Local Packed	4,846	2,914
Total	39,530	38,672

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	19,770,552	15,903,719

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Canton and Macao.....	1,970,181	1,329,604
Foochow	5,849,359	5,047,596
Shanghai and Hankow	8,229,359	8,804,032
	16,048,890	15,181,282

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96. lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Amoy	2,112,164	1,176,938
Foochow	412,210	1,098,668
Shanghai	3,131,020	3,475,917
	5,655,394	5,751,523

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Yokohama	7,985,534	3,125,000
Kobe	1,170,801	737,196
	9,156,335	3,862,196

SILK.

CANTON, 2nd July.—Third crop silk will begin to arrive in about a week's time. The rearings have progressed favourably and a full outturn is expected. Owing, however, to shortness in the previous crops cocoons will probably rule vpe. high. Tsatlees.—Nothing doing for Euroce Re-reels. The market has continued to advance in the country, and is very firm at subjoined quotations. American buyers have also advanced their rates and further contracts to the extent of 3,400 bales were placed for future delivery at \$555/565 for No. 1 Grant-reeled. Filatures.—An increase of 30 per cent. over last year's prices in the cost of French and Italian cocoons has given an active impulse to the demand for Lyons. The quantity available has been much reduced by the large purchases of 1st and 2nd crop Filatures made for America, but the balance has been eagerly bought up at steadily advancing rates, and the 3rd crop will open with practically no stock carried over from the previous yields. Prices have advanced \$50/70 per picul during the fortnight, and quotations are now little better than nominal. Shortreels have been all along in active request for America at up to \$620/630 for Best 2nd class 14/16. First class 14/16 has sold as high as \$650. Waste.—Has been in rather better demand, but prices remain weak and even show a further decline on some sorts. Stocks.—Tsatlees 250 bales. Cumchuck nil bales. Filature 300 bales. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons. Exchange, 6 months' sight, 2/2½ and Fcs. 2.78 per Dollar.

Tsatlees	No. 1 \$520	= 9/5½
	No. 2 \$505	= 9/2½
	No. 3 \$490	= 8/11½
	No. 4 \$475	= 8/8
	No. 4½ \$450	= 8/2½
	No. 5 \$440	= 8/0½

Filature 1st class 11/13...	\$695
1st " 13/15...	\$685
2nd " 10/12...	\$650 to \$670
2nd " 13/15...	\$640 to \$670
3rd " 10/12...	\$620 to \$630
3rd " 13/15...	\$580 to \$600

Re-reeled Lacklow	No. 1 \$570
	No. 2 \$555
	No. 3 \$540
	No. 4 \$520

Mahang	No. 1 \$545	= 1/7½
Punjam Books No. 3 & 4.	\$ 86	= 1/5
Punjam Waste	\$ 75	= 1/7½
Steam Waste Extra	\$ 85	= 1/3
No. 1	\$ 64	= 1/1½
Gum Waste No. 2	\$ 60	= 1/0½
Pierced Cocoons	\$ 55	= 1/0½

Settlements for the fortnight:—	1895-96.	1894-95.
For Europe	1,200 bales.	650 bales.
For America	600 "	100 "
For Bombay	150 "	125 "
	[& 60 piculs]	[& 80 piculs]

SHANGHAI, 27th June.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams dated 25th current report the market "firmer." Gold Killings are quoted at 8/0 and Blue Elephant at 10/0. Raw Silk.—Business has again been very active this week; purchases and forward contracts fully reach 4,500 bales. The market is very strong for all descriptions of silk, and some holders have withdrawn their silk for the present. Tsatlees.—The demand has been general, and a further advance of Tls. 5 to 7½ per picul has been established.

About 2,000 bales have changed hands, but buying is now on a smaller scale owing to still higher rates asked by holders. Taysaams.—A fair business has passed in various descriptions at 2½ to 7½ taels advance on last week's rates. Quotations are given below, at which holders are very firm. About 800 bales have changed hands. Yellow Silks.—Continue in good request at unchanged prices. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 20th inst., are 3,752 bales of White, 198 bales of Yellow, and 555 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—Further large contracts have been made for Steam, Croisée, and Market Filatures both for America and the Continent. Steam Filatures 13/15 denrs. have advanced to Tls. 680, Croisées Best No. 1 to Tls. 540, and Market Filatures to Tls. 470 for No. 1. Re-reels remain quiet. Wild Silk.—Some business is doing in various descriptions at rather higher rates. Tussah Filatures 8 Cocoons are quoted Tls. 225. Tussah Raws are held for Tls. 125 to 152½, according to quality. Waste Silk.—No transactions reported. Pongees.—A contract has been made for 3,500 pieces White Pongees 21/22in. by 70 yards by 40 Taels weight at Tls. 14.80. About 4,500 pieces Shantung Pongees have changed hands at Tls. 3.60 to 3.10, according to weight. A lower quality 20 oz. heavy was paid Tls. 1.85 per piece.

Purchases include:—Tsatlees.—Black Lion 3½ at Tls. 450, do. 4 at Tls. 420, Mountain 3 at Tls. 397½, do. 4 at Tls. 372½, Gold Lion at Tls. 365, Silver Double Elephant at 337½, Yaonlay Seeling at Tls. 337½, Gold Killing at Tls. 340, Chay Killing at Tls. 312½. Hangchow Tsatlees.—Lanhook at Tls. 325. Taysaam.—Green Kahing Cicada 1 at Tls. 370, do. M at Tls. 320, do. M M at Tls. 300, Gr. Almond Flower 1 at Tls. 310, 9/12 Moss Double Butterfly 1 at Tls. 312½, do. 2 at Tls. 292½. Chincum.—Fighting Cock No. 1 at Tls. 350, do. 2 at Tls. 340, do. 3 at Tls. 330. Skeins.—Lucky Twins 3 at Tls. 270, Joss Chop 2 at Tls. 245. Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 255, Meeyang at Tls. 216½ to Tls. 240, Fooyung at Tls. 192½ to Tls. 205. China Filature.—Steam Filature 1st and 2nd, third at Tls. 680 to 665, Mayhenyu Croisée Extra 1 at Tls. 540, do. No. 1 at Tls. 530, do. No. 2 at Tls. 520, Fly Horse Croisée Extra 1 at Tls. 510, do. No. 1 at Tls. 500, do. No. 2 at Tls. 490 (not Croisée), Extra 1 at Tls. 485, do. do. No. 1 at Tls. 475, Buffalo do. No. 1 at Tls. 470, do. No. 2 at Tls. 460, do. No. 3 at Tls. 450, Red Pagoda Haining No. 2 at Tls. 470. Wild Silk.—Whafoong Steam Tussah Fil. 8 Cocoons at Tls. 225, Spinning Girl chop Tussah Fil. 8 Cocoons at Tls. 222½, Tussah Raw at Tls. 125 to Tls. 152½.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Shanghai	4,783	1,913
Canton	1,795	424
	6,578	2,337

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Canton	1106	635
Shanghai	720	353
	1,826	988

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 3rd July.—The market has advanced again, holders being firm. Quotations for Formosa are \$73.00 to \$73.50. During the past week sales have been 100 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 3rd July.—The firmness last reported has not been maintained. There have been large arrivals and the market is dull at lower prices. Following are the quotations:—Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.12 to 7.15 per picul. do. " 2, White... 6.66 to 6.69 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.65 to 4.68 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.50 to 4.52 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.07 to 7.10 " do. " 2, White... 6.62 to 6.65 " do. " 1, Brown... 4.45 to 4.47 " Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.25 to 4.28 " Foochow Sugar Candy 10.05 to 10.10 " Shekloong " 8.95 to 8.97 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The German steamer *Aglaia*, Hongkong to Havre, 19th June, took:—784 rolls Matting, 100 cases Cassia Ligna, 71 bales Canes, 55 cases Chinaware, 48 bales Bambop Sticks, 84 cases Human Hair, 24 boxes Tea, 10 cases Paper, 6 cases Trunks, 5 packages Chairs, 3 packages Bambopware, 1 case Earthenware, 1 package Feathers, and 1 package Pongees; for Havre option Hamburg:—33 cases Camphor, 22 cases Blackwoodware, and 13 cases

Chinaware; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—1,533 cases Camphor and 20 cases Staranised Oil; for Hamburg:—2,170 boxes Tea, 1,000 cases Cassia, 648 packages Merchandise, 261 packages Bristles, 245 packages Rattan Shavings, 230 cases Ginger, 195 packages Feathers, 142 packages Canes, 85 rolls Matting, 20 cases Tea-sticks, 20 cases Galangal, 7 cases Silks, 6 packages Sundries, 3 packages Rattanware, 2 cases Chinaware, 2 packages Safflower, 2 cases Tea Paper, 1 case Essential Powder, 1 case Gongs, and 1 case Skins.

The steamer *Ulysses*, Hongkong to London, 19th June, took:—8,245 boxes Tea (99,760 lbs. Scented Capar, 6,132 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe, 72,663 lbs. Congou), 200 bales Waste Silk, 168 bags Gum Copal, 50 cases Ginger, 100 cases Ginger, 18 cases Cigars, 23 packages Merchandise, 112 rolls Matting, 300 bales Hemp, 55 bales Canes, and 20 cases Bristles; for Liverpool:—650 bales Hemp; for Continent:—14 packages Tobacco.

The P. & O. steamer *Ravenna*, Hongkong to London, 20th June, took:—30 bales Waste Silk, 12 cases Silk Piece Goods, 12 cases Cigars, 55 rolls Matting, 35 bales Canes, 3 cases Sundries, and 189 boxes Tea (3,969 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe); for France:—432 bales Raw Silk, 2 cases Silk Piece Goods, 16 bales Hemp, and 3 packages Sundries; for Trieste:—100 bales Pierced Cocoons, and 14 cases Silks.

The German bark *Adolph*, Hongkong to New York, 22nd June, took:—2,500 packages Fire Crackers, 3,240 rolls Matting, 7,750 bales Cassia, 300 cases Cassia, 30 packages Personal Effects, 18 cases Blackwoodware, and 3 cases Curios.

The British steamship *Chingwo*, Hongkong to London, 22nd June, took:—8,495 boxes Tea (91,182 lbs. Scented Capar, 42,126 lbs. Congou, 3,087 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe), 217 cases Chinaware, 109 cases Ginger, 100 bales Waste Silk, 100 rolls Mats, 32 cases Blackwoodware, 20 bales Pimjam Waste, 16 bales Canes, 10 bales Pierced Cocoons, 6 cases Gongs, 6 cases Silk Goods, and 1 case Private Effects; for Buenos Ayres:—325 packages Tea and 1 roll Matting Samples; for Buenos Ayres option Montevideo:—300 packages Tea.

The P. & O. steamer *Java*, Hongkong to London, 26th June, took:—20 cases Bristles, 94 bales Canes, 2 cases Silk Piece Goods, 200 cases Soy, 100 cases Ginger, 9 boxes Chinaware, 50 packages Naval Stores, and 13,474 boxes Tea (67,536 lbs. Congou, 212,604 lbs. Scented Capar, 2,814 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe).

The steamer *Oceanien*, Hongkong to Continent, 26th June, took:—537 bales Raw Silk, 13 cases Silk Piece Goods, 15 cases Essential Oil, 2 cases Curios, 28 packages Hair, and 1,947 packages Tea; for London:—50 bales Waste Silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 3rd July.—Bengal.—The market has ruled dull in the interval and prices have declined. Closing quotations are \$730 for New Patna, \$790 for Old Patna, \$727½ for New Benares, and \$740 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—A few chests only of very old drug have changed hands during the past week. Other descriptions are neglected. The following are current rates:—

New	.....\$680 with a'wance of 0 to 2½ cts.
Old (2½ years)	.....\$720 " 0 to 1½ "
Older	.....\$730 " ¼ to 1½ "

Persian.—There has not been much change in the values of this drug. Oily closes at \$690 to \$730, and Paper-wrapped at \$760 to \$820, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—					
New Patna	.....	1,650	chests.		
Old Patna	.....	95	"		
New Benares	.....	530	"		
Old Benares	.....	370	"		
Malwa	.....	990	"		
Persian	.....	910	"		

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
June 26	765	800	765	765	680	720/730
June 27	765	800	755	750	680	720/730
June 28	760	790	750	745	680	720/730
June 29	732½	790	732½	740	680	720/730
June 30	733½	790	735	745	680	720/730
July 1	732½	790	732	740	680	720/730
July 2	730	790	722½	740	680	720/730
July 3	730	790	722	740	680	720/730

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 18th June.—The market remains firm, but no business is being done owing to higher prices asked by holders. Stocks: 457 bales Bengal, and about 150 bales of Chinese Cotton.

Bombay	.....	\$13.00 to 15.50 p. pel.
Kurrachee	.....	13.00 to 15.50 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and	.....	13.00 to 16.00 "
Dacca	.....	13.00 to 16.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese	.....	17.00 to 19.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	.....	17.00 to 19.00 "
Madras	.....	16.00 to 17.50 "

Sales: 50 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca; 150 bales Shanghai and Japanese; Tungchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 3rd July.—There have again been large arrivals and prices have further declined. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	.....	per picul.
Round, good quality	.....	\$2.05 to 2.08
Long	.....	2.28 to 2.30
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	.....	2.41 to 2.43
Garden, No. 1	.....	2.08 to 2.11
Siam White	.....	2.43 to 2.45
Fine Cargo	.....	2.90 to 2.92
	.....	3.08 to 3.10

COALS.

HONGKONG, 3rd July.—Small sales of Japanese reported. Market dull. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	.....	\$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, steady.
Australian	.....	7.00 to 7.25 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump	.....	6.75 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small	.....	— to 6.25 ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	.....	5.50 to 6.00 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 3rd July.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn.—915 bales No. 10 at \$60.50 to \$71, 565 bales No. 12 at \$68 to \$75.50, 215 bales No. 16 at \$75 to \$81, 1,095 bales No. 20 at \$75 to \$97.50. Grey Shirtings.—500 pieces Flower Vase at \$3.65, 4,500 pieces 8½ lbs. B. Joss No. 2 at \$2.67½, 2,100 pieces 7 lbs. Red Joss at \$2.30, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Double Fish at \$2.30, 1,000 pieces 4½ lbs. Green Eagle at \$1.20, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Tiger Flag at \$1.80, 7,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.67½, 800 pieces Stag's Horn at \$2.15, 500 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss B. at \$2.72½, 250 pieces Horse and Gun at \$3.22½. White Shirtings.—1,500 pieces S. Q. at \$4, 1,000 pieces S. S. at \$4.25, 1,000 pieces No. 600 at \$4, 1,750 pieces Flower Chop at \$4.55, 150 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.30, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.60, 500 pieces No. 500 Cat Head at \$3.20, 1,000 pieces S. O. at \$3.80, 300 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.30, 800 pieces Gleaston No. 1,000 at \$3.85, 500 pieces 1 Chop at \$2.90, 250 pieces 3 Stars at \$4.80, 900 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.55, 250 pieces X 9 at \$4.22½, 750 pieces Blue Dragon at \$4.68, 300 pieces E. K. at \$2.90, 300 pieces D. K. at \$4.50, 750 pieces Gold Joss B. at \$3.10, 1,500 pieces Woman Chop at \$0.58. T-Cloths.—500 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay Red Dragon at \$1.60, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Dragon B.B. at \$2.17½, 1,000 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay 2 Boys at \$1.60, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. S. Lion No. 1 at \$1.79, 375 pieces Mex. S. Lion No. 2 at \$1.76, 300 pieces 8 lbs. V. V. at \$2.72½, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Sil. Lion at \$1.76, 300 pieces V. V. at \$2.72½. Drills.—300 pieces 16 lbs. Buffalo Chop at \$3.55, 75 pieces 14 lbs. Dragon Chop at \$3.75. Spanish Stripes.—480 pieces B. R. B. assorted at \$0.58. Long Ells.—400 pieces 10 lbs. Scarlet at \$7.15. Camlets.—200 pieces 9 Old Men Scarlet at \$16.65.

METALS.—Iron.—8,000 pieces Nail Rods Belg. No. 1/6 at \$2.70, 1,000 pieces small round rods at \$2.90, 200 pieces old wire ropes at \$4.25. Yellow Metal.—60 cases New Brand 14-20 ozs. at \$23. Lead.—2,100 piculs Australian at \$6.15. Tin.—200 slabs Foong Chai at \$36.60.

COTTON YARN.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	.....	per bale
English—Nos. 16 to 24	.....	\$60.00 to \$80.00
22 to 24	.....	95.00 to 99.00
28 to 32	.....	96.00 to 102.00
38 to 42	.....	104.00 to 109.00
	.....	115.00 to 123.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	.....	per piece
7lbs.	.....	1.25 to 1.35
8.4 lbs.	.....	1.70 to 2.00
9 to 10 lbs.	.....	1.90 to 2.90
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	.....	3.10 to 3.75
58 to 60	.....	2.00 to 2.25
64 to 66	.....	2.40 to 3.00
Fine	.....	3.10 to 3.50
Book-folds	.....	3.80 to 6.30
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	.....	2.50 to 5.00
	.....	0.58 to 1.20

T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.)	Ord'y.	1.30 to 1.35
7lbs. (32 in.)	Mexs.	1.72 to 1.90
6lbs. (32 in.)	Mexs.	1.50 to 1.60
7lbs. (32 in.)	Mexs.	1.95 to 2.20
8 to 8½lbs. (36 in.)		2.15 to 2.90
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14lbs.		3.00 to 4.10

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.		1.25 to 2.65
Brocades—Dyed	.....	3.65 to 4.50
Damasks	.....	per yard 0.12 to 0.16
Chintzes—Assorted	.....	3.07 to 0.11
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	.....	0.20 to 0.30
Velveteens—18 in.	0.17 to 0.20

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	per dozen 0.40 to 0.80
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WOOLLENS

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	per yard 0.55 to 0.85
German	0.95 to 1.10
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	.....	1.20 to 2.60
Long Ells—Scarlet	.....	per piece 6.50 to 7.80
Assorted	.....	6.60 to 7.90
Camlets—Assorted	.....	14.00 to 29.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	13.50 to 21.00
Orleans—Plain	3.70 to 4.90

Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	per pair 4.50 to 9.00
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METALS

Iron—Nail Rod	per picul 2.85 to 2.90
Square, Flat Round Bar	2.85 to 2.90
Swedish Bar	4.40 to —
Small Round Rod	.....	3.00 to —
Hoop	.....	4.30 to —
Old Wire Rope	.....	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	.....	6.15 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	.....	per case 25.50 to —
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	.....	25.00 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	.....	25.00 to —

Japan Copper—Slabs	23.50 to —
do. Tiles	23.50 to —
Tin	37.00 to —

Tin-Plates	per box 5.20 to —
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Steel	per cwt. case 5.30 to —
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SUNDRIES	per picul
Quicksilver	119.00 to 119.50

Window Glass	per box 3.20 to —
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Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case 2.00 to 2.05
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SHANGHAI, 27th June.—(From Mr. G. W. Noel's report.)—The week under review has not been productive of any specially interesting event as regards this market. Exchange is weaker here, but it is exceedingly difficult to get buyers to recognise that fact, the market in consequence being much quieter, at the same time remaining firm at previous tael quotations. The anticipated lull is evidently setting in, and this is more plainly shown by the results of this morning's auction, where prices went generally in the buyers' favour, than by the private business reported, which has only shown signs of falling off towards the close. Deliveries of former purchases continue satisfactory, but the Tientsin dealers seem disposed to pause now before entering into further engagements. There is a strong market for the best American makes, which is helped considerably by the firmness of manufacturers in the States, and holders are consequently taking advantage of the situation. The lower class goods, however, hang fire and it is very difficult to effect sales even at previous prices. Woollens continue to attract the attention of the dealers and a further large business in Camlets and Long Ells has been done this week, both from stock and to arrive. It appears after all that the Japanese are levying duty in Newchwang on imports made by natives, and are also charging duty on their exports, which have to pay again on importation here, or any other Chinese port. This is a very heavy tax on the trade and will stop business indefinitely. The quieter tone here has already reflected on Manchester, that market being reported dull with only a dragging demand. Cotton has declined 3½d. It is rumoured that further developments in the local industry are on the tapis, and that two or three mill companies are to be floated in the near future under the superintendence of foreign firms here. The natives appear very favourably disposed to the schemes, and will no doubt give them large support when they find they are free from official interference and obstructiveness.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report)—28th June.—The most remarkable feature at pre-

sent noticeable on this market is the persistency with which prices for stocks generally remain below present cost, and with few exceptions also at a level considerably under what those who are purchasers are offering for cable transactions. The quiet condition reported in my last has become still more marked and while "hard" cargo has been neglected during the week, no telegraphic purchases of any importance are on record. Nothing has been done in Metals new or old. The business in sundries has been small. Sales have been made as under:—Bamboo Steel, 500 boxes, each 1 cwt., Tls. 3.60, by auction. Old Horse Shoes, 28 tons, Tls. 1.66½, by auction.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd July.
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	..... 2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand	..... 2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 day's sight —
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	..... 2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	..... 2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	..... 2/2½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	..... 2.71
Credits, at 4 months' sight	..... 2.77
ON GERMANY.—	
On Demand	..... 2.19
ON NEW YORK.—	
Banks Bills, on demand	..... 52½
Credits, 60 day's sight	..... 54
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	..... 196
Bank, on demand	..... 196½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	..... 196
Bank, on demand	..... 196½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Banks, at sight	..... 72
Private, 30 day's sight	..... 72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	..... par.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	..... 4 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	..... 1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	..... \$9.10
GO D LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	..... 47.50

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 3rd July.—The market has ruled very quiet and we have nothing of importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai during the early part of the week were neglected, but later, a demand springing up, rates gradually rose with sales at 182, 183, 184, and 185 to 186 per cent. prem., at which rate market closes steady. Some few lots changed hands for August and September at 191 and 193 per cent. prem. Nationals have again changed hands at \$28.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue on offer at \$162. China Traders have ruled very firm and rates have advanced with sales at \$66, \$66½, \$67, and \$69 to \$70, at which rate a few shares are still obtainable. Cantons are still enquired for at \$162½, but no more shares seem to be forthcoming. Straits are steady, at quotation.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Have ruled neglected and rates remain unchanged.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have changed hands as low as \$31½ and shares are obtainable at \$32. Douglas's appear somewhat weaker and shares are offering at \$50. Other. Shipping stocks are neglected at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands in small lots at \$103 and \$104. Luzons continue neglected.

MINING.—We have no sales of any importance to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Lands continue steady at \$59 to \$59½, and sales have been effected at these rates. Docks have further improved their position to 106, with sales at that and 105 per cent. prem. At time of writing sellers rule the market at former rate. Fenwicks have fallen to \$15½ with sales. Watsons have changed hands at \$9½ and can still be obtained at that rate. Ices have improved to and are firm at \$83.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.	\$125	186 p. ct. pm., sales
China & Japan, prf.	...	nominal [& sellers]
Do. ordinary	£1	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	nominal
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares.....	£8	\$28
Foun. Shares.....	£1	nominal
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$10, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$44, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$2
China Sugar	\$100	\$104, sales
Chinese Loan '86 E.	Tls. 250	11 p. ct. pm.
Dakin, Cruickshank & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$7
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$154, sales
Green Island Cement	\$50	\$10, sales
H. Brick & Cement.	\$12.50	\$74, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$30	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas.	£10	\$125, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$8	\$4.85, sales
H. H. L. Tramways.	\$100	\$70, buyers
Hongkong Hotel.....	\$50	8, sellers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$83, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$41, sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$125
H. & W. Dock.....	\$125	106 p. ct. pm., sales
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$162, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$84, sellers
China Traders' ...	\$25	\$70, sales & seller
Hongkong Fire ...	\$50	\$205, sales & sellers
North-China	£2.5	Tls. 195, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$181, sales & sellers
Union	\$25	\$162, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$93, buyers
Land & Building—		
H. Land Investm't	\$50	\$59, sales & seller
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$8
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$104, sellers
West Point Buildg.	\$40	\$184, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	Fcs. 500	\$105, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$8.30, sellers
New Balmoral.....	\$3	\$5.90, buyers
Punjum	\$34	\$5.90, sales & sellers
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$1.70, sellers
Raub	13s. 10d	\$4, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China & Manila ...	\$50	\$35, sales
China Shippers.....	£5	\$2.11.6
Douglas S. S. Co....	\$50	\$50
H., Canton, & M....	\$20	\$32, sales
Indo-China S. N....	£10	\$53, sellers
W'chai Warehouse Co.	\$374	\$374, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S....	\$10	\$4, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers

SHANGHAI, 28th June:—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash shares have been placed locally at 176, 180, 181, and 181½ per cent. premium, and to Hongkong at 180 and 183 per cent. premium. Shares were also sold, for delivery on 31st August, at 190 per cent. premium. The London quotation is £44. The Hongkong rate is 184 per cent. premium. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug Boats were placed at Tls. 130. Indo-China S. N. shares are weak, with sellers. Taku Tug and Lighter shares are wanted. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat shares change hands at \$32. Docks.—Shares in Boyd & Co. were sold at Tls. 165, and in S. C. Farnham & Co. at Tls. 150. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares are wanted at 100 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—Unions were sold at \$160. Yangtzes at \$93½, and Straits at \$174. North-Chinas are offering. China Traders, Yangtzes, and Straits shares are wanted. Fire Insurance.—There is no change reported in Hongkong, although the rate in Hongkong has advanced to \$205. Shares are obtainable at that price. Chinas have been sold to Hongkong at \$83, and have since changed hands locally at \$84. Cargo Boats.—Shanghai has been placed at Tls. 150 and Tls. 155. Miscellaneous.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 28, Shanghai Land Investment shares at Tls. 36, and Shanghai-Lankat Tobacco shares at Tls. 135. Major Brothers shares were sold at Tls. 20, and are wanted, but are held for Tls. 25. Shares in Hall & Holtz and J. Llewellyn & Co. are offering. Debentures.—Shanghai Land 5½ per cent. Debentures were placed at Tls. 93, plus the interest accrued since 1st April, and Country Club Debentures at par. Both are offering at the same rates.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 3rd July.—Our freight market continues dull and rates are about the same as previously reported.

From Saigon to Hongkong there is a demand for small steamers only at 14½ cents per picul.

From Bangkok to this the regular liners command 17½ and 22½ cents, but there is no enquiry for outside steamers.

Chartering from Newchwang commenced during the past week and up to the present four fixtures have been reported. At the moment, however, there is no demand for prompt loading and the rate is nominal at 30 cents per picul.

Japan coal freights remain dull at \$1.80 per ton to Hongkong and \$2.50 to Singapore.

For New York sailing tonnage is being freely offered at about 19s. per ton of 40 cubic feet.

There are four vessels disengaged in port, registering 5,901 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Sam. Skolfield—American ship, 1,514 tons, Shanghai and Hongkong to New York, gold \$12,500.

Adam W. Spies—American barque, 1,171 tons, Shanghai and Hongkong to New York, gold \$10,000.

Matterhorn—British 4-m. barque, 1,839 tons, Hongkong to New York.

Fred. P. Litchfield—American barque, 1,042 tons, Hongkong to Baltimore.

Oscarshol—Norwegian steamer, 915 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 29 cents per picul.

Cassius—German steamer, 1,606 tons, Newchwang to Canton (part cargo), 30 cents per picul.

Tamsui—British steamer, 919 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 30 cents per picul.

Fooksang—British steamer, 991 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 34 cents per picul.

Specialist—British steamer, 1,845 tons, 3 ports Java to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

Protonis—British steamer, 1,390 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Rio—German steamer, 1,104 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Sishan—British steamer, 897 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul.

Bonington—British steamer, 1,332 tons, Takao to Yokohama, 25 cents per picul.

Braemar—British steamer, 2,316 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.

Helena Rickmers—German steamer, 2,255 tons, Moji and Kuchinotsu to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.

Rheingold—German steamer, 654 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, \$4.100 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Kaisow (str.), Japan (str.), Ceylon (str.).

FOR HAMBURG.—Glamorganshire (str.), Irene (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Bayern (str.).

FOR MANTILLAS.—Ernest Simons (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria (str.), Altmore (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Lyndhurst, Alcedo, Belgic (str.), China (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Santa Clara, George F. Manson, Belmont, Fohng Suey, Siam, Fort Stuart.

FOR AUSTRALIA.—Changsha (str.).

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

June—

25, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.
26, H. W. Jarlsberg, Norw. str., from K'notzu.
26, Letrimbo, Italian str., from Bombay.
26, Norden, Danish str., from Haiphong.
26, Oscarshol, Norw. str., from Bangkok.
26, Lawang, German str., from Kobe.
26, Wycliffe, British str., from Canton.
26, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
26, Ningohow, British str., from Glasgow.
26, Gloucester City, British str., from Java.
26, Murex, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
26, Hertha, German str., from Hamburg.
27, Afghan, British str., from Nagasaki.
27, China, British str., from San Francisco.
27, Donar, German str., from Bangkok.
27, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
27, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
27, Progress, German str., from Tournon.
28, Lifoo, German str., from Canton.
28, Teyi, German str., from Tientsin.
28, Wingsang, British str., from Calcutta.
28, Frejr, Danish str., from Haiphong.
28, Orestes, British str., from Liverpool.
28, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
28, Glenfruin, British str., from London.
28, Ingraban, German str., from Samarang.
28, Santa Clara, Amr. ship, from Shanghai.
28, Benalder, British str., from London.
29, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
29, Taihiow, British str., from Bangkok.
29, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
29, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.

29, Kitty, British bark, from Bangkok.

29, Nanyang, German str., from Chinkiang.

29, Rosetta, British str., from Bombay.

30, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.

30, Fushun, British str., from Canton.

30, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.

30, Japan, British str., from London.

30, Kwanglee, British str., from Shanghai.

30, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., from Haiphong.

30, Taicheong, German str., from Aroa Bay.

30, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.

July—

1, Cromarty, British str., from Amoy.
1, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.
1, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
1, Memnon, British str., from Sandakan.
1, Straits of Dover, British str., from M. ji.
2, Kiangtung, Chinese str., from Macao.
2, Pekin, British str., from Shanghai.
2, Bayern, German str., from Bremen.
2, Agamemnon, British str., from Foochow.
2, Glamorganshire, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Glenfarg, British str., from Japan.
2, Fohng Suey, Hawaiian bark, from Java.
2, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
2, Bullmouth, British str., from Batoum.
3, Queen City, Hawaiian 4-m. sch., from Kobe.
3, Hoihow, British str., from Chinkiang.
3, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
3, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
3, Teyi, German str., from Canton.
3, Progress, German str., from Swatow.

June—

26, Linnet, British g-bt., for Taiwanfoo.
26, Fokien, British str., for Amoy.
26, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
26, Polyphemus, British str., for London.
26, Oceanien, French str., for Europe.
26, Ran, Norw. str., for Nagasaki.
26, Fushun, British str., for Canton.
26, Java, British str., for London.
26, Ningchow, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Queen Victoria, British str., for Kobe.
27, Reina Cristina, Spanish cr., for Manila.
27, Argyll, British str., for Shanghai.
27, Framnes, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
27, Murex, British str., for Singapore.
27, Phra Chom Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
27, Radnorshire, British str., for Yokohama.
27, Wycliffe, British str., for Shanghai.
28, China, German str., for Saigon.
28, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
28, Kong Beng, British str., for Swatow.
28, Rio, German str., for Saigon.
28, City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. Francisco.
28, Continental, Dutch str., for Iloilo.
28, H. W. Jarlsberg, Norw. str., for K'notzu.
28, Menmuir, British str., for Nagasaki.
29, Lawang, German str., for Hamburg.
29, Kaiser, German ironclad, for Amoy.
29, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
29, Teyi, German str., for Canton.
29, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
29, Norden, Norw. str., for Nagasaki.
29, Orestes, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Oscarshol, Norw. str., for Newchwang.
29, Picciola, German str., for Saigon.
30, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Shanghai.
30, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
30, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
30, Hertha, German str., for Yokohama.
30, Lifoo, German str., for Shanghai.
30, Progress, German str., for Swatow.
30, Siam, British str., for Yokohama.
30, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
30, Princess Wilhelm, Ger. cr., for Shanghai.

July—

1, Chingtu, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Glenesslin, Brit. sh., for S. Francisco.
1, Kwanglee, British str., for Canton.
1, Nanyang, British str., for Canton.
1, Rosetta, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Afghan, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Cromarty, British str., for Singapore.
2, Donar, German str., for Bangkok.
2, Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Glenfruin, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Japan, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Letimbro, Italian str., for Singapore.
2, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
3, Agamemnon, British str., for London.
3, Activ, Danish str., for Pakhoi.
3, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
3, Kwongmo, British str., for Amoy.
3, Emyr of India, British str., for Vancouver.
3, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
3, Glenfarg, British str., for London.
3, Sikh, British str., for Foochow.
3, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.